

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1862, November 27, 1954

Pipe major girl



HEMMINGS THE MENACE SANG OPERA IN VENICE

Schoolboy who had an extra two weeks' holiday

Last month 12-year-old David Hemmings enjoyed a brief term-time holiday from school to sing in Benjamin Britten's new opera, based on Henry James's story, *The Turn of the Screw*.

C N correspondent Edward Lanchbery sends this intimate behind-the-scenes story of the great occasion.

HAIR falling down over his forehead, prep books strawn over the table, fingers straying to the knob of a small portable radio—David Hemmings of Tolworth, Surrey, was home from school.

"David, no," said his mother. "Turn it off, please."

"Oh, but, mother..." Re-

luctantly he obeyed and forced his attention back to me, politely trying to disguise his feelings that talking about himself was bad enough at the best of times, and certainly beyond a joke when it meant missing that week's instalment of *Journey Into Space*.

Against a background of surreptitious clicks of the radio switch, and the muted high-pitched pinging of space signals bringing inevitable admonitions from Mrs. Hemmings, the following story emerged of a 12-year-old boy who took a fortnight's holiday from school to sing in opera.

CUPS FOR SINGING

David Hemmings has been learning to sing for only three years. Starting in the school choir, he showed such promise that he began winning cups for his singing at music festivals, and last year sang in the choir of the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court.

Singing was then hard work indeed. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, he left for school at 8.30 in the morning and did not get back until 8.30 at night. On his way from school his mother would be waiting at Tolworth to take his books and give him his music satchel and some sandwiches, so that he could change buses and carry straight on to Hampton Court for choir practice. When at last he did reach home there was prep to be done before bed.

In addition to choir practice three nights a week, he sang at morning and afternoon services on Sundays, occasionally at big weddings on Saturdays, and kept up singing lessons with his private tutor, Mrs. Brooks, every Saturday morning.

It was Mrs. Brooks who saw the advertisement for boy sopranos, and sent home a message with David, suggesting that his mother should submit his name. David delivered the message casually in a rush to finish lunch and settle down with his microscope to examine some slides.

The upshot was that lacking any enthusiastic goading from their son, Mr. and Mrs. Hemmings did not think any more about the matter. Some days later Mrs. Hemmings received an urgent call.

"Have you heard anything about David's audition?" Mrs. Brooks wanted to know.

Mrs. Hemmings confessed awkwardly that they had not; but then, that was not surprising as they had done nothing about it.

"I have heard the audition is on Saturday," said Mrs. Brooks, "so there is no time to lose. Telephone the English Opera Group straight away."

AUDITION

Mrs. Hemmings telephoned.

"Sorry," said a voice, "the list is closed."

"Oh," said Mrs. Hemmings, "well it doesn't matter, really."

"What singing has your boy done, anyway?" asked the voice kindly to soften the disappointment.

Mrs. Hemmings explained.

"Just a minute, please." A long pause followed, and then the voice was back wanting to know if David could attend an audition that Saturday, and what he could sing.

"Where c're You Walk," said Mrs. Hemmings.

"And we will want him to recite something, too."

Mrs. Hemmings thought. "I think he knows Oh, to be in England."

"That will do nicely."

"Mother," said David reproachfully, when she told him the news, "there's no such poem as Oh, to be in England. It's called Home Thoughts, from Abroad. And I don't know it properly."

There were two days in which to

Continued on page 2

LETTER FROM LUTHER

Martin Luther, the great German Protestant Reformer, sat down on a July day in 1520 to write a letter to a prior. That same letter was sold the other day at a London auction for £260.

A letter written by the composer Handel fetched £500 at the same sale.

EASY GOING

After his first day at school a Canadian boy was asked how he liked it. "Fine," said he. "I'd like to go again some time."

From The Calgary Herald

NO MARKS FOR THE BLOODHOUNDS

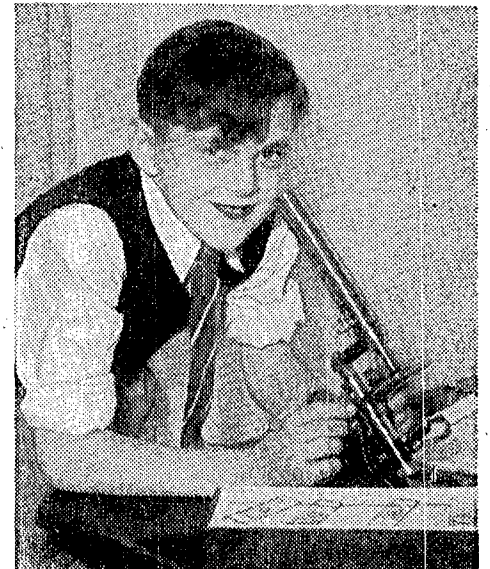
The reputation of the bloodhound family has been badly let down by three of their number who were put on the trail of a fugitive in Alabama.

To begin with all three refused to enter the woods until a reporter went in and blazed a trail. After this one of them got lost, another followed the scent of one of the policemen, and the third, feeling poorly after the car ride, was no help at all. All three afterwards suffered from hay fever through sniffing at the dusty ground!

Scottish experts would give full marks to this young lady, Diana Fagg, of the Nicholson Pipe Band of Folkestone. Started three years ago, the band has appeared on Television.

CONVERSATION PIECE

When you hear frogs croaking at night they may be having a nice little talk about various domestic matters. At least, when the American Institute of Biological Scientists met in Florida the other day for their annual convention, Dr. W. F. Blair said: "Frogs and toads carry on long conversations with each other—and they develop regional dialects, too."



David with his microscope

INDIA'S LADY DIPLOMAT

Mrs Pandit, new High Commissioner in London

CN Diplomatic Correspondent

AN Indian lady who is among the world's leading diplomats and statesmen is to take up office in London next month.

After 12 months as President of the United Nations General Assembly, Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, sister of India's Prime Minister, has been chosen by her Government to be High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom.

What sort of a person is this distinguished lady who guided the councils of so many nations during a period of considerable controversy?

She is good-looking and charming, with an essentially feminine delight in pretty clothes. Her pastel-coloured saris, the national dress of her country, have become familiar in the staterooms of the world's capitals.



Mrs. Pandit

Yet her calm confidence and her tact have soothed stormy assemblies, have coaxed angry delegates of rival countries back to cool discussion of their problems.

Mrs. Pandit herself never gets ruffled. Her quiet bearing, her assurance in the most trying circumstances, her capacity for restoring order are a by-word among diplomats and politicians.

TRAINED TO PUBLIC SERVICE

Born at Allahabad in 1900, Mrs. Pandit was trained to a life of public service. Her lawyer father, Motilal Nehru, was an aristocratic Brahmin of Kashmir. He was a staunch admirer of the British and arranged for his daughter to be taught entirely by an English governess.

Then, in 1919, a tragic and horrifying punitive action by a British general during an Indian political demonstration resulted in the Amritsar massacre in which hundreds of Indians were killed. This act turned the Nehru family

against the British for many years.

When she was 21, Vijaya Nehru married a lawyer, Ranjit Pandit, already known for his scholarly attainments. But she still took part in her family's steadfast campaign for the independence of India.

Three times she was sent to prison by the authorities during the period of the great Mahatma Gandhi's movement for India's freedom.

MODEL LEADERSHIP

The story of those years has lost the bitterness it once held, and Gandhi is remembered in Britain and India alike as a model of resolute but gentle leadership.

Mrs. Pandit was made a Cabinet Minister when Provincial Governments were formed in India before the last war. As Health Minister she fought an epidemic of the dreaded cholera. Then she came to England to study health methods.

After the war was over she became the leader of India's delegation to the United Nations. India's sovereignty which meant so much to her became an established reality. But her service had not ended, and she was chosen as ambassador of her country in Moscow and then in Washington. Last year she was elected President of the U.N. General Assembly.

Now India is sending her to London, where she will represent the millions of her countrymen and women for whom she has already done so much.

Britain will give this great lady a warm welcome.

HEMMINGS THE MENACE

Continued from page 1

learn, however; and passing the first audition, he was invited to a second a week later. By this time the purpose of the audition was known. It was for the rôle of a boy soprano in a new opera that Benjamin Britten was writing: a part on which he wished to work with a particular boy in mind.

In January this year a letter arrived from the English Opera Group. David Hemmings was one of three possibles for the rôle. Meanwhile, they would like him to take weekly lessons with their own coach.

Being coached for the opera meant getting permission to take an hour off from school each week. David brightened visibly when he found the time would come off the Latin lesson.

Not until the summer holidays, which he spent at Thorpeness busily rehearsing the opera now reaching its final shape, did he learn definitely that he had won the part; and the school allowed him two weeks off at the beginning

of September to sing at the world première in Venice, and then at the two enthusiastically received performances at the Sadler's Wells, London, last month.

David knew no first-night nerves. "I was most scared at the first audition because of the footlights which blinded me," he said. "Once I was used to them it was all right. At the performances I never thought about the audience—I could not see them. It was like singing to a black curtain stretched in front of the stage."

For the moment life is back to normal, with singing a matter of lessons twice a week. Master Hemmings is back in the classroom, stumbling painfully through Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars, and trying also to live down a chant popular with the rest of his form:

"Hemmings the Menace Sang opera in Venice!"

No doubt behind it lies a certain amount of envy from those who had no such luck in cutting Latin classes.



SOME of the peculiarities of our road traffic laws were exposed recently by Lord Lucas of Chilworth. He pointed out in particular the "chaotic" state of the speed limit regulations.

For instance, it is not generally known that the 30 m.p.h. limit laid down in the 1934 Road Traffic Act—mentioned in this column some time ago—was introduced for an experimental period of five years.

Every year since then Parliament has renewed it by passing the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, which keeps a number of decrees alive and avoids the need to bring in a separate bill for each subject concerned in each new session.

Perhaps it is even less well-known that there are as many as 15 speed limits in this country covering all sorts of road transport from traction engines to cars.

A showman's tractor, for example, can draw three large trailers up to an aggregate overall length of 100 feet. In any city, town, or village it is limited to 3 m.p.h., and elsewhere to 5 m.p.h.

Under the Act no motor coach or motor bus is allowed to travel at more than 30 m.p.h. Lord Lucas's view is that, as all of them travel at more than 30 m.p.h., the retention of this limit is ridiculous and tends to bring the law into disrepute.

DR. MALAN, the Prime Minister of South Africa, retires on November 30. That raises the question of who will represent South Africa at the London conference of Commonwealth Premiers which is due to begin on January 31.

This is expected to be one of the most important Commonwealth conferences ever held. The timing is opportune. By January we shall know a good deal more about the workings of G.A.T.T.—the world tariff and trade organisation whose members are meeting at Geneva.

In January, too, President Eisenhower will be sending his annual message to the new United States Congress. Something will be known by then about how a Congress which has emerged from the recent elections with a Democratic majority will work with a Republican President.

And as the Commonwealth Premiers are to discuss defence among other matters, the appearance of Britain's defence White Paper during or soon after the conference will acquire added interest.

MUCH has been written recently about horror comics. It is an interesting fact that Sir Winston Churchill himself has taken an initiative in the matter of stamping out these evil publications. He is said to have been revolted by copies he has seen.

News from Everywhere

CATS ON SHOW

The National Cat Club Show—one of the biggest in Britain—is to be held on December 8 at the Royal Horticultural (Old) Hall at Westminster, London. Admission, from 1 to 6 p.m., is 3s., children 1s. 6d.

An Alsatian dog has been trained by an airborne rescue team at Graz, in the Austrian Tirol, to jump from a plane by parachute. Already the dog has saved many lives in mountain rescue work.

A rare orchid bulb has been sold for £520 at an auction in Sydney.

TOYS FROM THE QUEEN

The children of Cold Ash Children's Hospital, Berkshire, have received a gift of toys and books from the Queen.

A balloon filled with hydrogen and released as a scientific experiment by girls of Camphill Secondary School, Paisley, was picked up at Lechtal, in the Austrian Tirol, more than 1000 miles away.

A flying boat so small that, with wings folded, it can be kept in an ordinary garage, has been successfully tested at Helsinki. It has a top speed of about 95 m.p.h.

Too delicate to go to school when she was young, Mrs. Eliza Luckett of Cuckfield, Sussex, has celebrated her 106th birthday.

A new survey has found that Mount Everest is about 40 feet higher than the official figure.

SORRY!

An under-water swimmer at Anglesey found an iron ring sticking out of the mud and, thinking it was the handle of a buried chest, he hauled it to the surface with the aid of a winch. Then the water began running away. He had pulled the plug out of a disused graving dock!

Some 90,000 farm workers have left the land for other work since 1948.

Milk vans in Wellington, New Zealand, are to be equipped with radio-telephones to speed up delivery service.

PYJAMA RESCUE

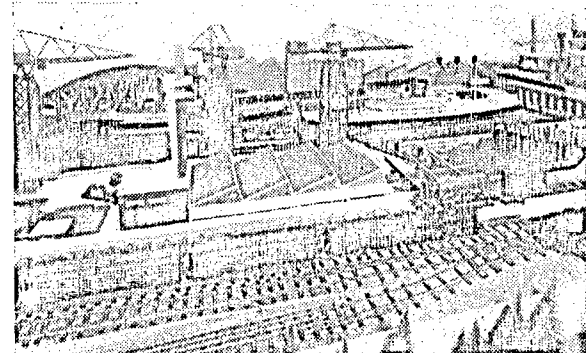
Hearing a screech of brakes, Captain Michael Everard, Captain of the Fleet at Malta, looked out of his bedroom window and saw a car upside down in the sea. He dashed out in his pyjamas and plunged into the water to rescue three American seamen trapped inside the car.

The Orcadian, Orkney Islands weekly newspaper, has just published its centenary number.

Queen Salote has written a forward to the official record of the Royal visit to Tonga, a beautifully illustrated book published by Pitkin Pictorials at 9s. 6d.

Facts and Figures about GAMAGES MAMMOTH MODEL RAILWAY

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MEMORIAL TO SCOTS MARTYRS

Last year a Town Councillor of Edinburgh, passing through the historic Grassmarket, saw two men busily sweeping the street. They were cleaning the place where once stood the scaffold on which so many Scottish Covenanters died for their faith during the notorious Killing Time of the 17th century.

The two men were American tourists who wanted to take a photograph of the celebrated spot. They expressed astonishment that a place so sacred in the annals of Scottish religious history should be so neglected, and suggested that a garden to the memory of the martyrs be erected there.

Much impressed, the Councillor brought up the matter at the next meeting of Edinburgh Town Council. As a result a garden to keep the memory of the Covenanters evergreen has been formally opened in the Grassmarket.

Of the Covenanting martyrs The Duke of Hamilton said at the opening: "They did not worship on dedicated ground but found God as they met together on the moors and in the hills, without shelter, in constant danger of armed attack and persecution. We can remember these historic Conventicles with pride, for those early Covenanters kept faith to the end."

THE MONSTER AGAIN?

A rival to the Loch Ness Monster, or perhaps the monster itself, is reported to have been seen by a farmer's wife during a picnic lunch on the north shore of the Beaulieu Firth, where Loch Ness runs into the sea.

The monster, described as having a head like a dragon, was so close that the "wash" it made could be heard as it sped towards the estuary of the River Ness. Three humps of a long, undulating body could be seen above the surface and it was coloured black and dark blue. After five minutes the monster submerged in deeper water farther out from the shore.

OUR DAILY MILK

Few people stop to think about the marvel of organisation behind the morning delivery of milk, presided over by the Milk Marketing Board. London alone drinks 49 million pints a week, and supplies for the metropolis come from as far away as Cumberland, South Wales, and Devon.

Quite a lot of people we never see deserve our gratitude, first thing every morning.

MADE TO FIT A DONKEY

The Herring industry is now in full swing at Great Yarmouth, with nearly 200 drifters leaving and entering the port with their catches of herrings.

Among the many interesting things to be seen are the Swills, a curious form of fish basket made from plaited willow. These date back to the sixteenth century when they were used as panniers, hung each side of donkeys.

Oval in shape with curving sides that fitted the donkey's flanks, these fish baskets can hold two, to three hundred herrings and are carried in long narrow carts, drawn by horses, to the fish wharfs to be filled from the holds of the drifters.

AN R.L.S. GARDEN

The grounds of Skerryvore, Bournemouth, are to be laid out as a garden memorial to Robert Louis Stevenson, who lived at this house from 1885 until he left England in 1887.

R. L. S. named the house, which was destroyed during the war, after the lighthouse built by his grandfather in the Inner Hebrides.



Skates, Speed, Service

To speed up the service, girl attendants at a petrol station at Deidesheim, near Mannheim, in Germany, get to work on roller skates when a car pulls in.

NEW PLANS FOR OLD VENICE

The world's leading architects have been invited to co-operate in planning the new Venice. The wealth of artistic and historic monuments must be preserved, but vast improvements will need to be brought about in the inner quarter which is very overcrowded and where sanitation and other amenities need repair and modernising.

The foundations of many of the famous and stately palaces on the Grand Canal need urgent repair, and several schemes for expansion to other islands and to the mainland have already begun. The industrial port of Marghera is to be developed to twice its present size, and a new international airport is to be constructed at Tessera on the mainland.

New reservoirs, power stations, barracks, warehouses, ferry-terminals, and customs depots are also planned for the new Venice.

HAPPY LANDINGS FOR HELICOPTERS

A device which should add to the safety of rooftop helicopter landings in crowded cities is the Helifloat.

Demonstrated in Phoenix, Arizona, it consists of an aluminium raft floating in two inches of water. As the helicopter lands on the raft, the water spreads the weight evenly and so prevents excessive strain on any single part of the roof.

RADIO SEXTANT FOLLOWS THE SUN

The days of the navigator's optical sextant may be ended by the invention of the radio sextant, which traces the path of the sun as long as it is above the horizon, irrespective of cloud or fog.

It works by picking up the very weak radio waves given off by the sun. Electronic gear lines up the instrument with the actual position of the sun at any time, which can then be translated in terms of latitude.

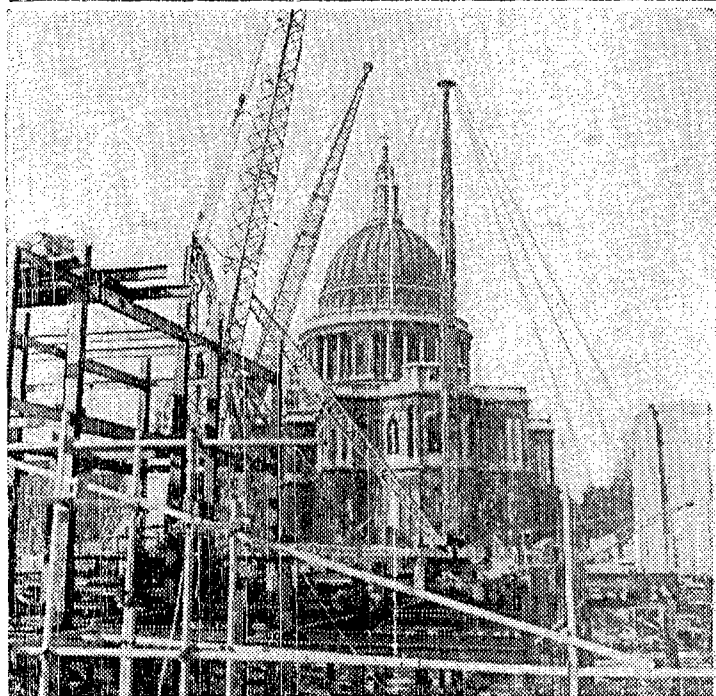
Radio sextants are being installed on U.S. Navy ships. The next development, say the designers, is a similar automatic sextant for following the moon, or possibly tracking one of the larger radio stars in outer space.

DESIGNING JOSEPH'S COAT

Joseph's coat of many colours has always stimulated children's imagination, and Sunday School boys and girls in several lands have sent many suggestions to Columbia Pictures for the design of the coat to be used in the Technicolor film, Joseph and His Brethren.

The suggestions vary from crude crayon drawings to surprisingly deft paintings. The colours include rainbow conceptions, blends of hues, stained-glass window effects, and jewelled patterns.

The Hollywood costume designer, Jean Louis, has been giving serious consideration to much of this Sunday School art, and it is quite possible that one of the pictures will be adopted for the coat.



New neighbours for St. Paul's

For ten years St. Paul's has stood out magnificently in the open spaces created by war damage. Now, to the regret of many Londoners, the Cathedral is gradually being hemmed in again by the new office buildings rising all round it.

FREE COAL FOR EVER

Francis Hacker, who died in 1676, left £200 to provide coal for the industrious poor of Sawley, Derbyshire. The trustees of the charity invested the money so wisely that today they hold 18 acres of land, from which they draw an income from rents, and £400 in the bank.

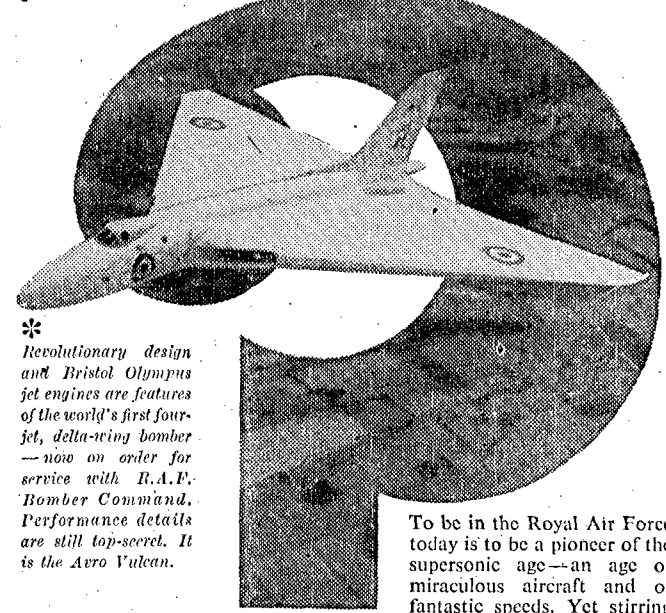
This year 50 poor people of Sawley will be receiving from this wealth, a gift of 3 cwt. of coal. "It looks as though the poor people of Sawley will be getting free coal each year for evermore," said an official of the Sawley charities trust.

JUNGLE THRILLS

Leopards are notoriously among the fiercest beasts of the jungle, and "The Spotted Devil of Gummalapur" was certainly no exception.

This is a true life drama which you can read in the December WORLD DIGEST now on sale. There are many more articles, too, of interest to the whole family in this outstanding monthly magazine that costs only 1s. 6d.

Can you identify this FOUR-JET DELTA* BOMBER?

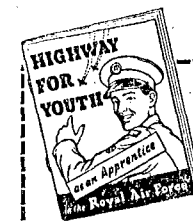


* Revolutionary design and Bristol Olympus jet engines are features of the world's first four-jet, delta-wing bomber — now on order for service with R.A.F. Bomber Command. Performance details are still top-secret. It is the Avro Vulcan.

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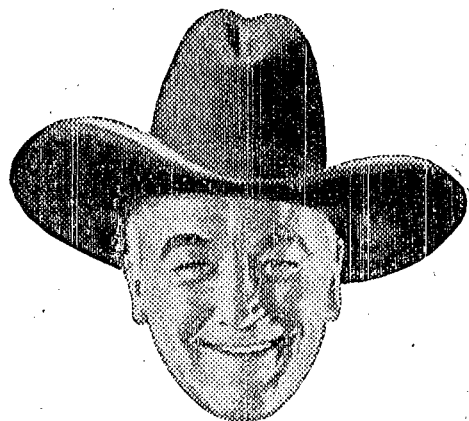
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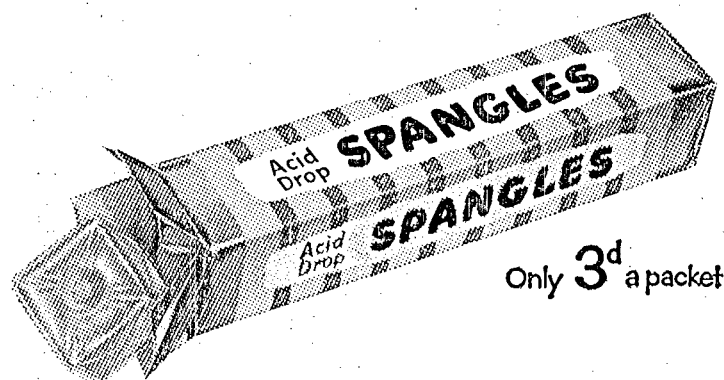
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Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

It happened this week

EDITOR JAILED

NOVEMBER 23, 1789. LONDON—Mr. John Walter was today taken to Newgate prison to serve the sentence of one year's imprisonment imposed upon him last July for publishing a libel against the Duke of York in The Times newspaper last February.

The libel was part of the campaign waged in support of King George III, in opposition to those urging unlimited powers for the Prince Regent and his royal supporters.

Mr. Walter described himself in court as a Bookseller, of 169 Piccadilly. He pleaded guilty, adding that he had received no reward for inserting the offending paragraphs which, he urged, were such as the needs of the times required.

Mr. Justice Ashurst ordered Mr. Walter to pay a £50 fine, to serve one year's imprisonment, to stand daily in the Charing Cross pillory, and to render £700 as security for his good behaviour for seven years.

DEATH OF JOHN KNOX

NOVEMBER 24, 1572. EDINBURGH—Three days after ordering his own coffin, John Knox died peacefully today at his home in Edinburgh. He was 67. He is to be buried in the kirkyard of the Cathedral of St. Giles, to which he returned as preacher from St. Andrews only three months ago.

A man of great religious fervour, will-power, and independence, John Knox has exercised enormous influence in Scotland and abroad as a Protestant preacher.

His first acceptance of the call to preach in 1547—a call publicly made by the congregation—asserted for the first time in Scotland the claim of the congregation to choose their own spiritual guide.

He was frequently rebuked by Queen Mary for his outspoken sermons against what he regarded as idolatry, and his effigy was once burned at the Cross in Edinburgh.

Until the end his wife regularly read to him excerpts from the Bible and Calvin's sermons. He had been profoundly moved by the recent news of the massacre of French Protestants on the eve of St. Bartholomew.

LIGHTHOUSE DESTROYED

NOVEMBER 26, 1703. PLYMOUTH—Eddystone lighthouse was one of the many buildings completely destroyed today during one of the greatest storms ever recorded in this country.

Among the victims was Mr. Henry Winstanley, who spent four years building this 100-foot high wooden structure which was bound with iron straps.

When the storm abated, all that could be seen of this four-year-old beacon were the irons which had formerly held it to the rocks below.

Mr. Winstanley lodged in the lantern. He had frequently said he would like to be present during a great storm in order to test the effect on the structure he built with such care.

RADIO AND TV

MEET THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Dumas' famous story on the screen

Do not miss The Three Musketeers, which starts a six-weeks run in Children's TV this week (November 24). It should be difficult to miss, anyway, for each instalment is being repeated for older viewers at 7.45 the same evening. The programme planners have judged rightly that Alexandre Dumas' famous story of seventeenth-century France fascinates adventure-lovers of all ages.

Many readers will know the story: how in 1625 that dashing young swordsman d'Artagnan goes to Paris to see the Captain of the King's Musketeers and there throws in his lot with Athos, Porthos, and Aramis, sharing in the escapades and intrigues of Richelieu and Louis XIII.

Scenes for the TV serial were filmed at Frensham Ponds, Surrey, some of the best being in autumn mist and drizzle. Producer Rex Tucker's most agonising moment was when a long-awaited patch of blue sky was suddenly obliterated by R A F smoke trails.

Another frustrating delay was caused as the TV unit was filming



Laurence Payne and Clare Austin

a duel between d'Artagnan and one of his enemies—a batch of paratroopers in training suddenly alighted all around them. The Gate out of Paris was filmed at Farnham Castle.

D'Artagnan is played by Laurence Payne, Athos by Roger Delgado, Porthos by Paul Whitsum-Jones, and Aramis by Paul Hansard. One of the few girls in the story is Constance, played by Clare Austin.

Winter in the zoo

SHEILA the cheetah, though she comes from tropical Africa, enjoys cold weather, and she has been chosen as mascot for the Children's TV visit to Dudley Zoo



Barrie Edgar

on Friday evening. Barrie Edgar will be there to introduce Zoo Manager Donald Risdon and Head-keeper Harry Hatch with, of course, lots of animals.

The idea is to show how the inmates are looked after in the winter. The large boa constrictor, for example, likes the temperature of a heat wave. Monkeys, too, like warmth.

Early morning cricket

EARLY risers who tune in the Light programme each morning at seven, starting on Friday, can hear a commentary on the last half-hour of the Test Match at Brisbane.

If this is too drastically early you can listen a little later to E. W. Swanton's ten-minute summary following the eight o'clock news in the Home Service.

Over the Pole

WYNFORD VAUGHAN THOMAS, the most-travelled of all BBC commentators, will be the first to fly over the North Pole. He is choosing this direct route to reach Hollywood in time for a film-star party which Light Programme listeners will hear on Christmas Day.

Cameras at the Royal Academy

TV may do for painting what sound radio has done for music. Viewers will have a wonderful

chance to see great masterpieces when the cameras visit the Royal Academy Winter Exhibition on Friday, the day before the public opening.



BBC commentator-artist Edward Halliday with Sir Gerald Kelly, President of the Royal Academy

Sir Gerald Kelly, President of the R.A., will act as guide to these works by European Masters of the Eighteenth Century, of which more than 500 have been collected from places as far apart as Australia, the U.S.A., and Sweden. Melbourne has sent a £250,000 painting, The Feast of Cleopatra, by the great Venetian, Tiepolo.

With some of the darker pictures the glass is removed from the frame to prevent dazzle in the camera lenses.

ERNEST THOMSON

THE SHINING FAME OF SIR PHILIP SIDNEY

Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, V.C., is to plant an oak tree at Shrewsbury School next week. It will be an act of tribute to the school's most renowned pupil, his own illustrious ancestor Sir Philip Sidney, who was born on November 30 just 400 years ago.

PHILIP SIDNEY was born at Penshurst in Kent. His father, Sir Henry Sidney, was a man of sterling qualities whose working years were spent mainly as Elizabeth's lord deputy in Ireland.

At nine he went to Shrewsbury, then the biggest school in England, and a curious, earnest little figure he must have been. One of his lifelong friends, Fulke Greville, who went to the same school, afterwards wrote a little biography of him which speaks of "his talk ever of knowledge and his very play tending to enrich his mind."

When only 14 he went to Christ Church, Oxford, left at 17 because of plague in the University, and then, after pottering about at Court for a few months with his uncle, the Earl of Leicester, was sent off to finish his education at the French Court, and to travel. For three months he lived at the British Embassy in Paris as gentleman-in-ordinary to King Charles the Ninth.

MASSACRE AT NIGHT

The Court was gay. No shadow of the horror that was coming darkened its splendour. Catholic and Protestant appeared to be friendly.

Everybody was deceived.

On the night of August 3, 1572, Philip was awakened by the sound of a gun. Immediately he heard footsteps in the street—the steps of hundreds of soldiers with drawn swords—and they mingled with shrieks and groans. Dawn broke on a Paris streaming with the blood of the betrayed Huguenots. It was that black event known in history as the Massacre of Saint Bartholomew. Its unforgettable horrors lasted a week.

As soon as the news of the dreadful treachery reached the English Court messengers were sent to Philip, bidding him leave the French capital at once and continue his travels. He was glad enough to go. He set out on a tour of Europe, visiting all the important towns and making friends everywhere.



Sir Philip Sidney—a picture in the National Portrait Gallery

When Philip Sidney came back to England in the summer of 1575, he was still the same solemn, decorous young man, and uncomfortably conscious of it. Solemn or not, he was a courtier and scholar not to be overlooked. The queen's sharp eye measured his worth, and she thought so much of him that soon young Sidney was sent off on his travels again, this time on various diplomatic missions.

The queen was gracious to the young ambassador on his return, and entrusted him with still more important missions connected with her foreign policy. His fame grew as he travelled; he made a great impression wherever he went.

DEFENDING HIS FATHER

Years went by, and presently something happened to show his mettle. Not for the first time, Elizabeth had a quarrel with Sir Henry Sidney about his Irish affairs. Things were looking black for him at Court.

Philip came, hurrying back from a short holiday and took up Sir Henry's cause. He wrote a long and masterly defence of his father's policy in Ireland, and it was presented to Elizabeth and read at her privy council. Every statesman was moved by it, and

Elizabeth saw it would be wise to end the quarrel.

This was a revelation of the young man's character. He knew well enough what it meant to incur the queen's displeasure. Nothing happened. Philip remained in attendance at Court, but he longed for a more active life, to go exploring new lands. But the queen would not allow him to leave the Court. To console himself he began to write verse, all the while dreaming of the day when he could go on a voyage of exploration like Drake, Frobisher, or Raleigh.

He was knighted in 1583 and would have liked to marry, but could not for the same reason that he could not go exploring—lack of money. But presently the queen granted him a small allowance, and the wedding bells rang for Philip Sidney and Frances Walsingham.

ACTION AT LAST

Their happiness was to prove short-lived. There was trouble coming in the Low Countries. Philip had been watching Europe and thinking for ten years, and he advised the queen as much as he dared for the strengthening of England and her Protestant friends abroad.

In June 1585 she consented to send an army to Holland to support them. Sidney's uncle Leicester was put in command and Philip was made Governor of Flushing.

On November 16, 1585, he sailed down the Thames and took up his position, watching the campaign with intelligence, seeing where the weak spots were. Time after time he wrote home for more men and more supplies. But difficult as his position was he was happy. He had found the chance of action for which all his life he had been longing.

Weeks went by, weeks filled with a fierce joy of labour, and then came the Battle of Zutphen. It was a morning of thick, impenetrable mist. Philip Sidney and his brother Robert voluntarily joined in the attack with a body of cavalry which advanced to intercept the enemy. Suddenly the fog lifted. The enemy in great numbers opened fire. The English cavalry charged twice and were twice beaten back, Sidney's horse being killed under him.



Sir Philip Sidney's great sacrifice at the Battle of Zutphen

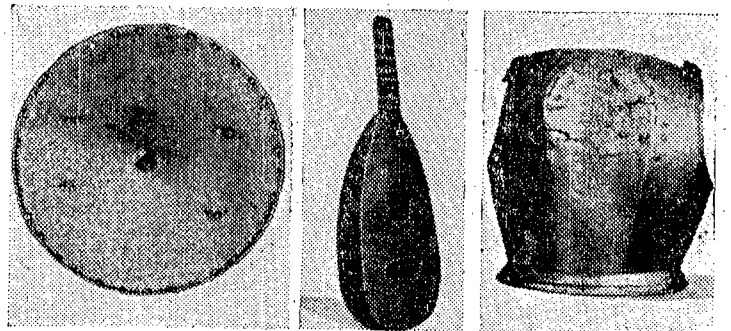
He took another horse and while attempting to make his way through the enemy's ranks to rejoin his comrades was hit by a bullet. Sidney's horse galloped madly away, but he managed to keep his saddle and reach camp, over a mile away.

Parched with thirst, he called for water. As the bottle was handed to him he caught sight of a wounded soldier who was being carried by. The man looked with

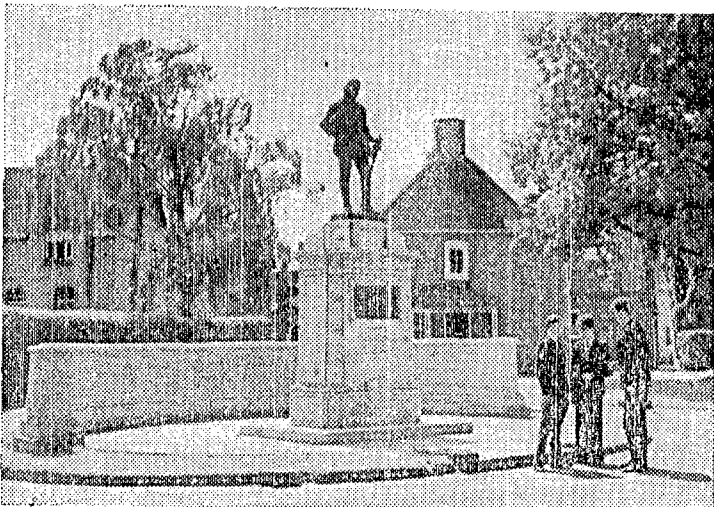
agonised eyes at the flask, and Sidney held it out with the immortal words: *Take it; thy need is greater than mine.*

He was carried off the field of battle and taken down the Rhine to a house at Arnhem. But the wound did not heal, and after 26 days of agony he died.

His body was embalmed and brought to England for burial in St. Paul's. The whole country mourned him.



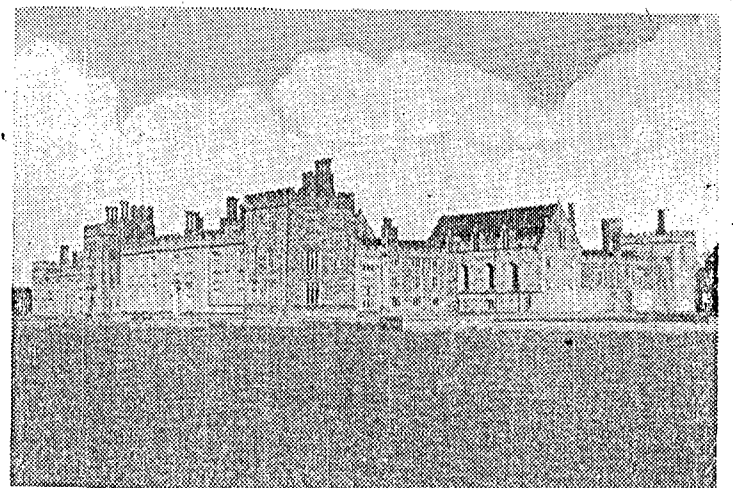
Three family relics which are still preserved at Penshurst—Sir Philip's shield and cuirass and his mother's lute



The Sir Philip Sidney Memorial at Shrewsbury School



Sir Philip with his brother Robert



Penshurst Place, Kent, the ancestral home of the Sidneys

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars . London . E C 4
NOVEMBER 27 1954

THE HAPPY WARRIOR

You have been so faithful and so loving to us, you have fought so stoutly for us, and you have been so hearty in counselling us, that we shall never forget your favour towards us. Pilgrims Progress.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL will celebrate his 80th birthday next week. From the Nation, from the Commonwealth, and indeed from the whole world will come the heartfelt wish of Many Happy Returns for this Grand Old Man.

With those good wishes, we can be sure, will come gifts by the thousand. As a great man of Parliament, he will be thrilled with the beautiful book presented and signed by all his fellow members of the House of Commons.

As one who all his life has given devoted service to his fellow-men he will rejoice in The Winston Churchill 80th Birthday Presentation Fund. Admirers all over the world are subscribing to this fund, which will be used for some great humane endeavour of his own choice.

As a champion of the people he will delight in the gifts sent by a great host of men and women in humbler walks of life; tokens of affection and tokens of gratitude for his inspiration in the darkest days of the war.

November 30 will be a moving occasion for the Prime Minister, and a unique occasion in our history. Certainly no British statesman ever had greater title to the world's esteem than this happy, ever-youthful warrior, this dauntless leader of men who never flinched from the sternest duty ever imposed on a statesman.

Sir Winston Churchill's place in our hearts is as secure as his place in history.

Many Happy Returns!

The Editor's Table

JUST WILLIAM

THE famed William stories by Richmal Crompton grew out of a real incident in the writer's home. Miss Crompton told the story at the Nottingham Books for Children Exhibition, part of the three-month book festival there.

She said that during house decorations her young brother became very interested in the man with a blowlamp who was burning the paint off a door. Later he disappeared for a couple of hours, and was found upstairs at work on the bathroom door with a lighted taper and a penknife.

Miss Crompton used this incident for her first William story and her publisher was so pleased that he asked for more. She tried to write about another child character, but could not get William out of her head; so she gave him a few friends and went on writing about him through the years.

Think on These Things

FOR many long years there had been no prophet in Israel. Then suddenly there came news of a mysterious prophet preaching to vast crowds on the banks of the River Jordan. It was John the Baptist; he was a stern, ascetic man from the desert, clothed in skins. His message was simple and urgent: the coming of Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, and he called on the people to prepare themselves for His coming by repenting their sins.

Everyone was wondering who John was. When the scribes and Pharisees asked him if he was the Christ, his answer was an emphatic No! His task was one of preparation. He made little of himself, that he might make much of the Master.

The true Christian does not think of himself. He wants to lead others to Jesus. And if he is faithful they will follow.

O. R. C.

OLD TIME A-FLYING

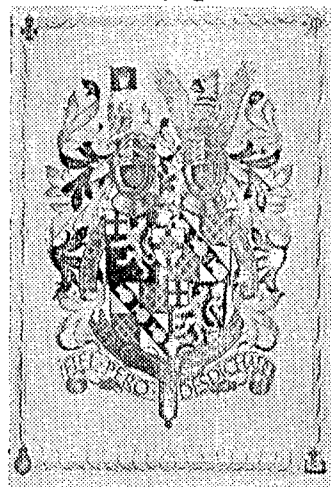
... to see the minutes how they run;
How many make the hour full complete;
How many hours bring about the day;
How many days will finish up the year;
How many years a mortal man may live.

Shakespeare

1944 and all that

THE year 1944 may well become a date as well known to every schoolboy as is 1066, says Alderman J. S. Walsh, chairman of the Leeds Education Committee, reviewing the ten-year period since the passing of the 1944 Education Act. What happened in 1944 would mould the future life of this country as great historical events of the past had done.

Birthday present



The first page of the Commemorative Book to be presented to Sir Winston Churchill by his fellow M.P.s. It shows the arms of the Spencer-Churchill family. See column 1

Miss Pat Pending

WHEN eight-year-old Linda was asked why she had chosen the name Pat for her new doll, she said: "I didn't choose it. It's the name she's already got. Look, here's her full name."

Linda turned up the doll for display and there plainly stamped were the words, "Pat. pending."

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, November 29, 1924

THOSE of us who are constantly kept waiting in busy restaurants would like to see installed here an establishment described by an electrical journal.

On entering the restaurant the guest sits down at a table, makes a note on a menu card of what he wants to eat, and drops the card through a slot in the table. In a few moments the meal that has been ordered rises up on a tray through the centre of the table. A little later the bill for the meal appears through the slot, delivered by electricity, and all there is left to do is to pay the cashier on going out!

Needless to say, the waiterless restaurant is in the hustle-land of America, in Detroit.

JUST AN IDEA

As Charles Dickens wrote: There are some people who can be merry but can't be wise, and some who can be wise (or think they can) and can't be merry.

A GREAT MAN'S PLEA

MAY those who have in their hands the fate of nations take care to avoid whatsoever may worsen our situation and make it more dangerous. And may they take to heart the words of the Apostle Paul: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

His words are valid for nations, as much as for individuals. May each nation, in its efforts to keep peace alive, go to the farthest limits of possibility, so that the spirit of man may have time to develop—and time to act.

From Dr. Albert Schweitzer's address acknowledging his Noble Peace Prize.

The man who worked for the Government

ALAN TEMPLEMAN, a 24-year-old immigrant to Southern Rhodesia, told this story in a letter to his parents at Stockton-on-Tees.

He was standing at a bus stop outside a Government building in Salisbury when he was offered a lift in a luxury car. At the wheel was a man in a sports jacket and flannels. After travelling a short distance Mr. Templeman remarked:

"What a smashing car. Is it yours?"

"No. It belongs to the Government," was the reply.

"You work for the Government, then?" queried Mr. Templeman.

"Yes," said the driver. "I'm the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia."

It was Mr. Garfield Todd!

Cure for athletes

AT the British Sportsman's Club lunch the other day Dr. Roger Bannister told this story.

An Oxford friend said to him, "I hear you are an athlete"; and then went on, "I sometimes feel like taking a bit of exercise myself. But then I lie down and the feeling passes."

THEY SAY . . .

I HOPE the rest of the building will be better laid.

The Duke of Edinburgh, when laying a foundation stone

WE should always try to get so much out of life that we can always say: "Now is the best time of my life."

Professor E. B. Castle of Hull University

IF children can find out for themselves what is the right job for them they will be much happier than if they are in a job that does not suit them.

Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University

ANY source of intellectual delight is a pearl worth buying at great cost.

Sir Hector Hetherington, Principal of Glasgow University

MANY people drop into church casually and take it for granted. We do not get the thrill and marvel of it, and we forget that the right to worship has cost blood, tears, and sacrifice. The least that we can do is to take up this heritage with reverence and awe.

Rev. Dr. R. Guy Ramsay, Glasgow

Out and About

IT was a bad summer for bees, especially the hive honeybees, and you had been fortunate to see any of their drones this autumn taking another meal before cold weather catches them.

Wild bees have been busy still trying to bring up their winter store of honey to the usual amount, and you may notice some of the large bumble bees about. These are quite distinct from the drones of the ordinary honey-bee. There are about twenty kinds of bumble bees in Britain.

But for the hunger of this bad year, all the female bumble bees would have started hibernating, but some keep trying to get in more food in warm spells. The store of honey will be wanted in the Spring to start off a new colony of workers with one breeding female, from whose eggs will hatch a new generation of male and female bumble bees.

C. D. D.

Under the Editor's Table

A lady says she would not like to live in a top flat. The stairs would get her down.

Preparations for Christmas have begun early. But Christmas stockings will still be hung up.

Some seaside hotel proprietors say they will not charge guests on very wet days. The bill will come down with the rain.

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If featherweight
boxers provide
light entertainment

Business English is getting odder and odder, says Mr. Henry Strauss. Beyond words.



OUR HOMELAND

Wickham Market, a Suffolk village on the old road from Yarmouth to London

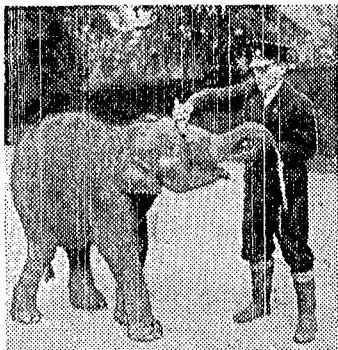
ZOO NEWS

YEAR'S TRAINING FOR LAKSHMI

An elephant learns to carry children

LAKSHMI, who at 2½ is the menagerie's youngest elephant, is now training at London Zoo. Recently keepers started taking the 13-cwt. animal out on to "the ride." But as yet she has no duties to perform, other than to follow the riding elephants Rusty and Dumbo as they plod up and down the paths with children on their backs.

"Training a young elephant to give rides is a lengthy and somewhat tedious business," a Zoo official told me. "We estimate that it will be at least a year



Lakshmi has a brush down

before Lakshmi can be trusted to carry children. At present, of course, she is not strong enough for this, even if she were well disciplined, which she is not.

"Her first stage of training is to learn to walk up and down the ride, pausing at the steps just as though she were taking on a load. Later, she will have sandbags draped across her back, to accustom her to the feeling of weight, and before the public can ride her she will have to carry her keepers."

Lakshmi (she is named after the Hindu goddess of wealth) came to the Zoo by air from Assam in 1953, and is believed to be the first elephant to fly so great a distance.

PENGUIN EGGS

All being well, the Zoo should have two Cape penguin chicks by Christmas. The adult penguins, Alice and Charlie, have become the proud owners of eggs which they are now taking turns at incubating in their kennel nest at the side of the Mappin Terrace pond.

"It may seem a queer time for eggs to be laid, but in South Africa it is now Springtime, and this pair

of penguins prefer to keep to their old breeding season," said Head-keeper Hubert Jones. "Alice and Charlie have had chicks here before, and at such times Charlie's temperament changes."

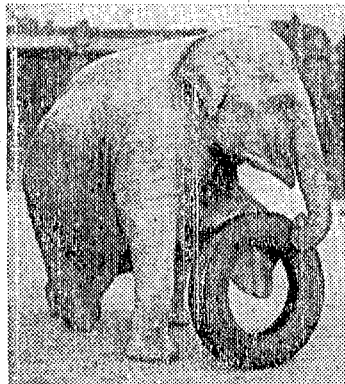
"Normally he is the friendliest of penguins—even young children can safely stroke him. But when he and his wife have eggs he becomes so truculent and aggressive that one cannot get near him, and he has quite a vicious peck."

NEW COCKATOO AVIARY

A new feature in the Gardens next Spring will be a large flight aviary for cockatoos. It is to be built during the winter on the site where the tunnel bar now stands, in the Middle Garden.

Mr. John Yealland, curator of birds, tells me that the aviary will accommodate about 20 birds, many of them sulphur-crested cockatoos from the Queen's Australian Collection.

A slight flurry was caused at the Zoo's main offices the other night when, at a late hour, Mr. Robert Hanson, the housekeeper, answered a ring on the doorbell. His male visitor hurriedly thrust into his hands a large iron saucepan, saying: "Poisonous snakes inside—I caught them in the country and put



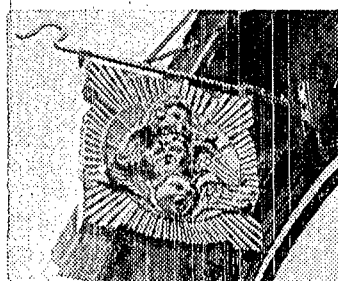
Lakshmi in a playful mood

them in the first available receptacle. I'll call for the saucepan tomorrow!"

Not anxious to take any risks, Mr. Hanson left the saucepan, well secured with cord, in the offices until the arrival next morning of Mr. Lanworn, reptile headkeeper. Mr. Lanworn opened up the saucepan, but found inside only a couple of harmless grass snakes!

CRAVEN HILL

On a London church

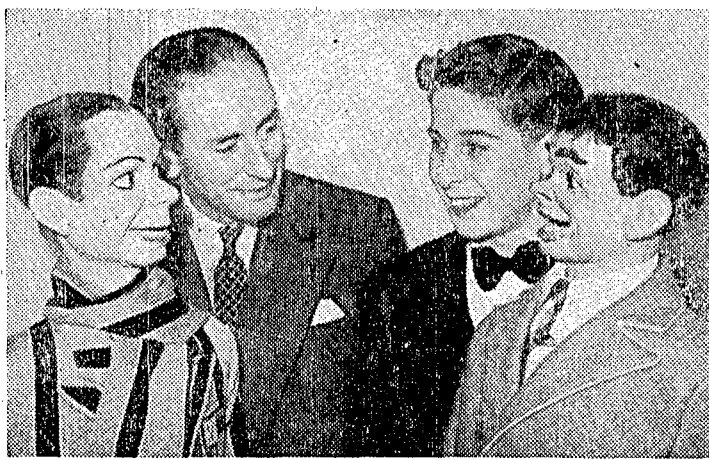


This carved oak sign, showing three cherubs in bold colours, hangs outside one of the City Churches. St. Mary Woolnoth, in Lombard Street

WHERE IS MANCHESTER?

The answer to that question depends on which Manchester you mean; the United States has several towns named after our great Lancashire city—in Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, New Hampshire, and Tennessee—and there are other Manchesters in Canada.

Liverpool also appears several times on the map; there is one, for instance, in Australia, another in U.S.A., and a most important one in Canada, the port of entry for Nova Scotia situated on—the Mersey!



Archie Andrews meets a new boy

Conker is the name of the "boy" on the right, seen with his owner, 14-year-old ventriloquist David Page of Dudley in Worcestershire. It was a great thrill for David when he met Archie and Peter Brough at the Dudley Hippodrome.

DELMA WRITES TO THE MAYOR

Delma Thornberry was worried. She is 14 and lives in the Lancashire cotton town of Nelson, and heard people saying: "If another cotton slump comes then Nelson will become a ghost town."

She read that as many as four families a week were leaving for other towns or emigrating, and that councillors and cotton union leaders had met to discuss: "How can we attract new industries to Nelson?"

So Delma wrote to the Mayor, Alderman Richard Bland, suggesting that townsmen with money should invest it in new industries. She also suggested that engineering would be a suitable new industry and that a public meeting should be held to discuss the problem.

"I think Delma's letter shows considerable intellectual interest and she should turn out a useful citizen," commented the Mayor. "In fact, the question of a public meeting is at present in hand."

"I wrote to the Mayor," said Delma, "because I felt that not enough interest was being taken by schoolchildren. The town's problems ought to be impressed upon the minds of the younger generation, for it is we who will make and decide the future of Nelson."

Well done, Delma.

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE

All over Britain, growing numbers of young people seem to be taking up the hobby of change-ringing. At Chailey, Sussex, 12-year-old Ian Howell and a 14-year-old friend recently rang the bells of their parish church before Morning Prayer for the first time, and many other villages in the Weald now possess enthusiastic bands of young ringers.

Those who can be regular and punctual in turning out for practices and Sunday services, perform a valuable task for their church and village. And also get fun!

From a set of four bells you can ring 16 different changes; with six bells those who acquire skill at scientific change-ringing, 720 changes. Bell-ringers at a church with eight bells may select from 40,320 different methods!

SAFETY FIRST ALL THE TIME

During the last eight years Mr. Harold Benjamin of Upper Weedon, Northants, has driven a lorry 165,000 miles without an accident. And the last 103,000 of those blameless miles have been done in a lorry which has never yet been in a garage for repair—a remarkable feat with a simple explanation.

"Every Saturday morning, I completely overhaul it myself," says Mr. Benjamin.

All honour to this Knight of the Road who sets such a fine example of road safety.

BLIND FARMER AND HIS DOG

Mr. Sam Taylor lost his sight in the First World War, but he is today a successful farmer at Shepshed in Leicestershire.

He would be the first to admit, however, that without his guide dog, Susie, a golden labrador, things would be very much more difficult. Before Susie arrived, Mr. Taylor had to get around Morley Farm with the aid of a stick, but not without bruises. With Susie to guide him, he gets fewer knocks than many people who can see.

With the aid of his compact Braille typewriter he is able to keep the records of his mixed dairy herd.

SCALES MARKED IN BRAILLE

Mr. Taylor weighs the milk with the scales specially marked in Braille. At a convenient time, he reads out the records to whoever is at hand, to be entered later on the record sheets in the cowshed.

By his touch, he can tell which are the Friesians, the Guernseys, and the Jerseys in his small herd. The different tinkles of the cow bells tell him which is Jenny, or Tina, or any of the other cows.

Every Monday Susie guides her master to Loughborough market. Quite often he buys stock by the feel. Mr. Taylor may be blind, yet he can slip beneath a barbed-wire fence much more easily than some people who have their sight.

Morley Farm is a credit to Mr. Taylor—and to his trusty dog.

YOU CAN BE A MAGICIAN

THERE'S A NEW BOOK IN THE SHOPS WHICH REALLY DOES MAKE MAGIC EASY TO DO — FOR ANY BOY (OR GIRL)

Written by a well-known amateur conjuror named Harry Baron, it's called MAGIC SIMPLIFIED. You should try some of the fifty-eight tricks he explains—you'll really mystify your pals, and your parents. There are 100 working diagrams to help you and the whole book costs no more than a good box of tricks—only 8s. 6d.

GET IT AT ANY BOOKSHOP

BUILD A HOUSE FOR YOUR BUDGIE

CALLING ALL BOYS AND GIRLS WHO LOVE BIRDS

A very famous author (probably you've read some of his stories), Eric Leyland, has just written a book specially for boys and girls on how to keep pet canaries and budgerigars. With it you could keep birds all on your own, because Mr. Leyland tells you just how to build little cages and 'flights' and simple feeding boxes, how to train them, and even breed them. It's quite exciting to read how much you can do. And the book is worth every penny of the eight-and-six it costs, by the saving you will find in making your own things!

ONLY 8/6

AND don't forget to ask for, in your Xmas FOOTBALL stocking, Tommy Lawton's SOCCER THE LAWTON WAY

All books of NICHOLAS KAYE

WHERE SCOTLAND'S HONOURS WERE HIDDEN

When new electric lights were switched on at a ceremony at Kinneff Parish Church in Scotland, they illuminated a site famous since the 17th century. For it was here that the Honours of Scotland—Crown, Sceptre, and Sword—were hidden from Cromwell's forces.

The "switch-on" in this little church, not long ago, inaugurated a new electricity distribution scheme in Kincardineshire.

To an older church on this site, the Honours were brought by two women. They had smuggled them out of Dunnottar Castle while it was besieged by Cromwell's soldiers, who intended to seize the Regalia. One of the women, Mrs. Granger, the wife of the Minister of Kinneff, hid the Crown in her lap, while her maid carried the Sceptre and the Sword concealed in bundles of flax.

UNDER THE FLOOR

The English thought the women looked quite harmless, and their commander even helped Mrs. Granger to mount her horse!

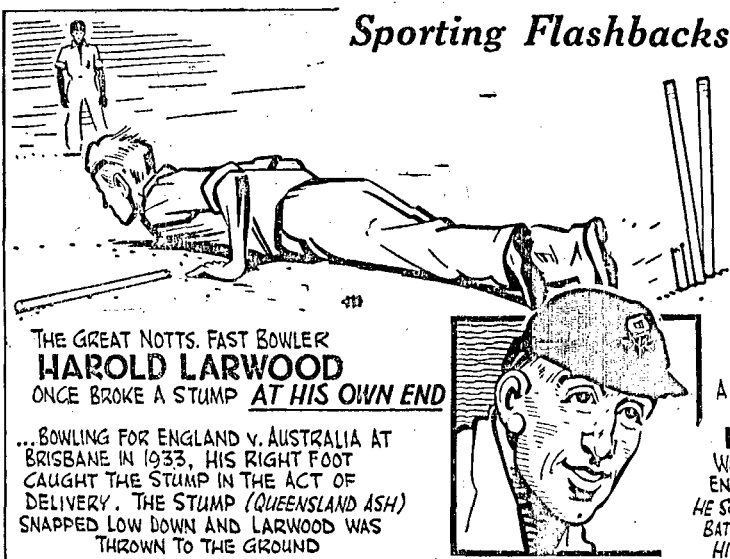
The Regalia were hidden in holes under Kinneff Church floor. Soon afterwards Dunnottar Castle fell and the Roundheads, not finding the Regalia, imprisoned the Castle's commander, George Ogilvie, and his wife.

For nine years Scotland's patriotic treasures lay hidden in Kinneff Church, until in 1660 they were returned to Edinburgh Castle. George Ogilvie received a baronetcy for helping to preserve them, and Mrs. Granger was awarded 2000 marks—but there is no record that she was ever paid this sum!

COAL FROM THE QUEEN

Every poor person in Windsor who is over 60 will receive a hundredweight of coal as a Christmas gift from the Queen. This is a custom started by Queen Victoria.

Sporting Flashbacks



THE GREAT NOTTS. FAST BOWLER HAROLD LARWOOD ONCE BROKE A STUMP AT HIS OWN END

...BOWLING FOR ENGLAND V. AUSTRALIA AT BRISBANE IN 1933, HIS RIGHT FOOT CAUGHT THE STUMP IN THE ACT OF DELIVERY. THE STUMP (QUEENSLAND ASH) SNAPPED LOW DOWN AND LARWOOD WAS THROWN TO THE GROUND



A HERO OF THIS 1933 BRISBANE TEST (THEN THE FOURTH OF THE SERIES) WAS EDDIE PAYNTER, OF LANCASHIRE, WHO LEFT A SICK BED TO BAT WHEN ENGLAND'S WICKETS WERE FALLING... HE SCORED 83, RETURNED TO BED AND THEN, BATTING AGAIN IN THE SECOND INNINGS, HIT THE SIX THAT WON THE ASHES



GALLANT SHIP FINDS JOB ASHORE

The first ship ever to sail both ways through the grim Northwest Passage, the little St. Roch, has been handed over to the City of Vancouver in British Columbia to be preserved for all time. She is to be put on exhibition in Stanley Park, where it is hoped that she will be converted into a naval museum.

The St. Roch is an 80-ton auxiliary schooner only 104 feet long, and she belonged to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Now she has joined the immortal sisterhood of famous ships which are to be preserved for all time.

It was in the early 1940's that Superintendent Henry A. Larsen and his party of Mounties-turned-sailors took 28 months to sail round the Arctic north of Canada, from Vancouver to Halifax. They were thus the first men to make the passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic by this route.

RETURN JOURNEY

Two years later they sailed back, 7295 miles, in three months. They had made voyages which had defeated some 150 former expeditions.

On these Arctic voyages their small vessel was constantly menaced by icebergs and ice-floes. They encountered gales so tremendous that the sea tore from the peaty shore great masses of soil with willow trees still rooted in them.

In 1950 the St. Roch became the first ship ever to sail right round the North American continent when she reached Halifax after a trip from Vancouver via the Panama Canal.

At the recent handing-over ceremony her gallant commander, Supt. Larsen, was honoured by the Mayor of Vancouver and 600 guests.

In this little vessel British Columbians have a permanent memorial of their intrepid explorers.

THE BISHOP GOES BACK TO PERSIA

Goodwill is beginning to flow again in Persia as well as oil after the shut-down of the past two years. Persia has sent a special note to Bishop J. W. Thompson of Isfahan, asking him to come back to his old home, and he recently left London to return to the country he has served so well.

Bishop Thompson, who is now nearly 70, was Principal of the Isfahan Boys' High School from 1921 to 1935, and since then has been Anglican Bishop in Persia.

AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE

Twelve months ago Bishop Thompson had to leave Persia at a moment's notice. He was given just time to pack his bags, and was then hustled on to a plane by orders of Dr. Mossadegh. Many of his old boys were sorry to see the bishop go and they said so in high places, because they knew that their country had no firmer friend than Bishop Thompson.

When he went out first this was a remote country, rarely visited by people from the west.

But now the journey is an overnight "hop" to Beirut by air and then a car journey of a week via Bagdad to Isfahan. The bishop

will leave the winter damps of Britain, and motor along the good desert road to Bagdad in sunshine with clear blue skies and that lovely morning freshness in the air which, he says, is part of the fun of living and working in the Middle East.

This road to Isfahan is the road which the modern miracle-workers of the Middle East have helped to make. These are the oil-prospectors, the men who look for wealth hundreds of feet below the sandy soil. All along the road the bishop will travel, there are signs of their activity, and as he enters Persia proper he will be aware of how much things have changed since he first went there to live.

It was dangerous in his early days to venture outside the big

LIVELY RESTAURANT

About 60,000 butterflies, moths, grasshoppers, dragonflies, and beetles were seen in a railway restaurant at Frankfurt recently. It was not a plague but an exhibition at which over 100 entomologists bought and exchanged specimens.

cities into the villages. But the bishop's knowledge of the language and his love of all things Persian have made him a respected figure in the country around Isfahan. The school of which he was headmaster for so many years has provided some of the best citizens.

SIGNS OF GOODWILL

One of the bishop's dreams, which he hopes to make come true in Isfahan, is to open a bookshop where the youth of the city can see and buy the best books both in English and other languages. He thinks that literature goes along with the school and the hospital, which has been founded in the city, as signs of British goodwill to Persia.

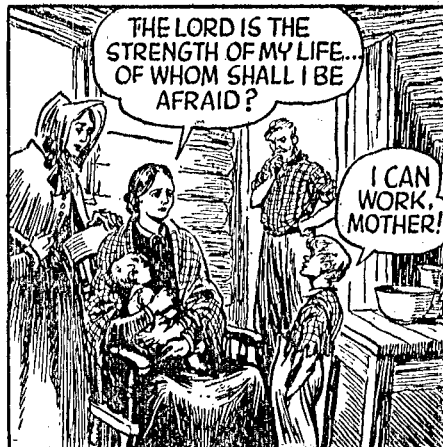
The hospital has remained open during all the recent troubles, and there was no move to close it down.

As Bishop Thompson gets near to Isfahan on his return to what he calls home, there will be many hand-waves from the streets, and the rumour will quickly spread that he is back. His staircase will be crowded with faces happy to see an old friend again.

FROM LOG CABIN TO WHITE HOUSE—new picture-version of the romantic life-story of President Garfield (I)



James Garfield, future President of the United States, was born in a poor Ohio settler's hut in 1831. When he was a baby of 18 months, a forest fire threatened the family's little farm in the wilds. The father, Abram, dug a fire-break while his daughters and his other son, Thomas, fought the approaching flames. They saved their home, but Abram, resting after his exertion, caught a chill and became very ill.



Abram Garfield died soon after, and his widow was left with no man to run the farm he had carved out of the woods with his axe. Her few neighbours in this remote place advised her to sell her land and return to her friends. But her small son Thomas said he could work the farm, and Mrs. Garfield declared: "God has promised to be with the widow and the fatherless. I don't feel that I can move from here."



So the little family went to work. Thomas borrowed a horse and ploughed. His mother cut rails for a fence round the wheatfield. The girls helped to set it up, and to dig a vegetable garden. But their food began to run out, and they had no money to buy any. They were nearly starving before their harvest ripened. Mrs. Garfield often secretly went without meals so that her children should have enough.



They had a bounteous harvest, and were not again threatened by hunger. By the time James was three, more pioneers had come to the district, and a small school was opened in a log hut. Thomas could not go, for he was too busy on the farm. But his sisters attended, and carried Jimmy to and fro, as it was too far for him to walk. Little Jimmy Garfield loved it, and made rapid progress in learning the alphabet.

The future statesman has made a promising start, but many adventures await him. See next week's instalment

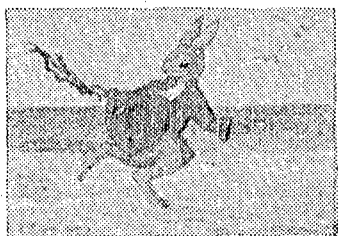
New books for the Very Young

Of the making of books there is no end, fortunately, and never are the bookshops more crowded or more fascinating than in the few weeks before Christmas.

There are no gifts more acceptable than books, but with every passing year the publishers contrive to make the choice more difficult, and this is particularly true of books for the very young; this year's crop offers them enchantment unlimited.

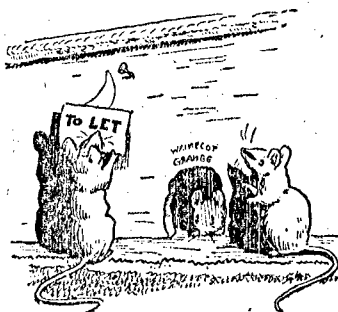
Animal stories are always popular, and there are some particularly jolly ones among the new Christmas books. Among the established favourites is Muffin the Mule, who comes clowning into young hearts again in Annette Mills's latest book, **MUFFIN'S SPLENDID ADVENTURE** (University of London Press, 6s. 6d.).

Two other animal books guaranteed to bring smiles to chubby young faces are Alison Uttley's **LITTLE GREY RABBIT GOES TO THE SEA**, and Racey



One of Margaret Tempest's charming illustrations to *Little Grey Rabbit Goes to the Sea*.

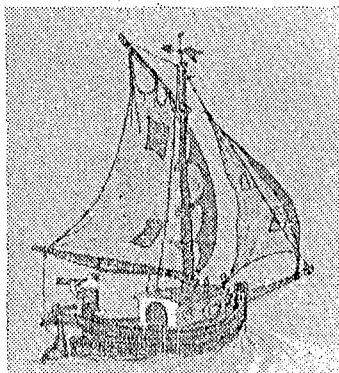
Helps's **TWO FROM A TEAPOT**. The first title speaks for itself and in any case Alison Uttley's grey rabbit is an established favourite. Racey Helps's book tells of two kind-hearted mice who lived in a broken teapot in—of all places—a cat's attic! Both books, delightfully illustrated, are published by Collins at 3s. 6d.



The heroines of Racey Helps's *Two From a Teapot*.

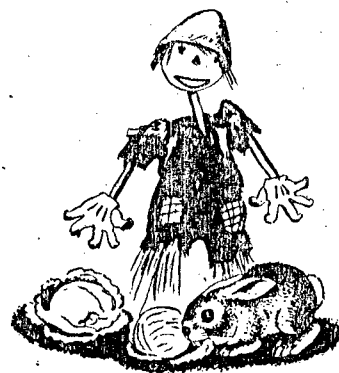
Tigers are not renowned for friendliness, but Nancy Spain, the well-known author and journalist, has created a delightful, companionable one in **THE TIGER WHO COULDN'T EAT MEAT** (Max Parrish, 6s.). Illustrated by her own drawings, this is Miss Spain's first book for children—and quite irresistible.

Another amusing tiger is **ETHELBERT**, who loves swimming, and whose astonishing adventures among crocodiles, sharks, whales, and even ice-floes are divertingly told and illustrated by Rosemary Hoyland, who is still in her early twenties (Collins, 7s. 6d.).



One of Garth Williams's coloured illustrations to *The Sailor Dog*.

Another laughable four-footed friend is **THE SAILOR DOG** (appropriately named Scuppers) by Margaret Wise Brown, with pictures by Garth Williams (Frederick Muller, 1s. 6d.). Young dog-lovers will also rejoice in **DOG STORIES**, by Elizabeth Coatsworth (Publicity Products, 5s.), which is beautifully illustrated in colour and fine value for money. There is a fine collection of animal friends, too, in **FARM STORIES**, told by K. and B. Jackson, with excellent pictures by Gustaf Tenggren (Publicity Products, 5s.).



Sammy Scarecrow is just one of Gustaf Tenggren's gay little characters to be met in *Farm Stories*.

Very small folk will also like Patsy Scarry's **MY TEDDY BEAR** (Frederick Muller, 1s. 6d.). This is a simple story well illustrated by Eloise Wilkin.

Donald Bisset's **ANYTIME STORIES** (Faber 7s. 6d.) are also short and to the point, with drawings on coloured backgrounds.

An excellent introduction to Bible Stories is **THEY MET JESUS**, by Eva M. Sawyer, illustrated by Paul Dessau (Pickering and Inglis, 5s.).

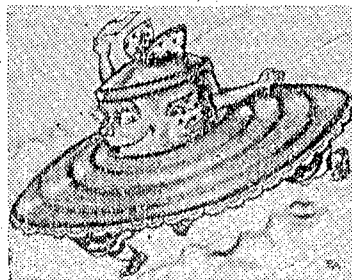
Equally praiseworthy is **A CHRISTMAS MANGER**, by John Harwood (Puffin Picture Book No. 103, 2s. 4d.), providing a beautiful set of Nativity pictures which become an attractive model when pressed out (no scissors required).

Two charming additions to the ever-popular Reading with Mother series are Joan G. Robinson's **MORE ABOUT TEDDY ROBINSON**, the big friendly teddy bear, and Mary Cockett's **JONATHAN ON THE FARM**, about a small boy's first visit to the country. Both are published by George G. Harrap at 4s. 6d. each.

Little books of instruction which will please younger readers as well as their older brothers

and sisters are published by Brockhampton Press at 2s. each. Among the titles are **BUTTERFLIES** of the Fields and Hills, Garden and Woodland **BUTTERFLIES**, both by L. Hugh Newman, and **BIRDS' EGGS**, by Eric Pochin.

Space travel would seem an advanced subject for the nursery, but **SUSIE SAUCER AND RONNIE ROCKET** (Werner Laurie 6s.) are a quaint pair who can be sure of a warm welcome when they fly down the chimney



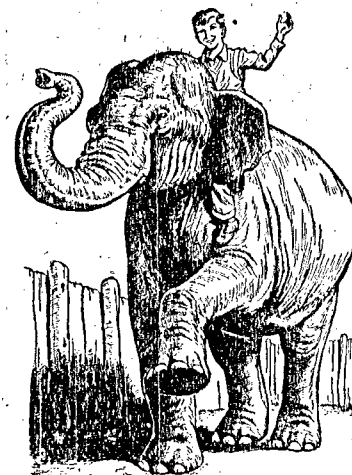
A new type of heroine is Susie Saucer, who is delightfully portrayed by Edward Andrewes.

into a stocking. Susie is "the youngest of the flying saucers" and Ronnie is her Earth-built friend. Stella Clair tells the fairy story and Edward Andrewes has illustrated it most amusingly.

A very different character is the black boy in Dorothy Craigie's sympathetic stories: **AKOO AND THE SAD SMALL ELEPHANT**, and **AKOO AND THE CROCODILE WHO CRIED** (Max Parrish, 2s. 6d. each). A most appealing little fellow.

Finally, a word about some newcomers which are half-book, half-toy, with coloured illustrations which rise from the pages in realistic fashion to greet youngsters who have just entered the great big wonderful world of picture-books.

Among the latest are **ROY ROGERS, HOPALONG CASIDY**, and **GENE AUTRY JUMP-UP BOOKS** (Adprint Limited, 5s. each), and **HANK'S**, and **RAG, TAG AND BOB-TAIL'S**, and **ANDY PANDY'S JUMP-UP BOOKS** (Publicity Products). These books in 3-D are 5s. each.



All 8 to 11-year-olds will enjoy Sengler Buys Babette, a tale of the circus by Grania Brandon (Brockhampton Press, 5s.). This is one of Norman Meredith's drawings.

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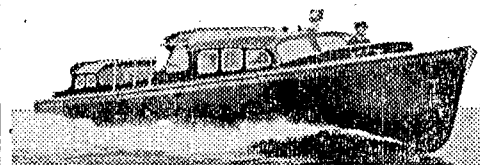


Photo: Courtesy of Vosper Ltd.

THE ROYAL BARGE...

MODEL MAKER, December (Christmas) issue contains details of how to make a fine model of the Royal Barge used by H.M. The Queen on ceremonial occasions, powered with a small electric motor or miniature diesel engine. There will also be articles on a table top race track for clockwork, electric and rubber driven model cars, complete with how-to-make instructions for both track and cars; a new "Junior" Class model Racing Yacht; a racing car driven by a propeller; a 3D Christmas Game—"Cosmic Checkers" and lots of other exciting models and modelmaking news.

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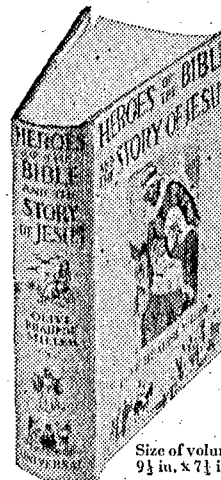
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RETRACING ARCTIC FOOTSTEPS

Records of several earlier expeditions have been found by a Canadian-American party which has just returned from the Canadian Arctic.

The earliest traces they found were of the 1876 British venture which was led by Lieutenant Pelman Aldrich. A note setting out his progress was found about 100 miles west of Ward Hunt Island, on the north-west of Ellesmere Island. Up till 1945 Canadian maps of the area were based on the original map brought to England by the Aldrich Expedition.

A record left by Peary in 1906 was discovered in a metal canister in a cairn, and remains of supplies left by him when he reached the North Pole in 1909 were also found. They included a sledge, a tin of China tea, still in good condition, a lamp, and a stove.

Records of a Danish expedition in 1920, and a German group which was lost in 1931, also came to light.

P.T. instructor



Corporal Alice Wain was a professional knitter three years ago. Now she is W.R.A.F. Training instructor at Dishforth, Yorkshire.

HER SNOWMAN IS TWO YEARS OLD

A snowman two years old will be ceremonially set up at a Christmas children's party in the garden of Mrs. E. T. Dollar, of Memphis, Tennessee.

She made the snowman just before Christmas in 1952 and has kept it ever since in a big spare refrigerator. It is about three feet six inches high. If the weather is mild on the day of the party, the snowman may have to stay in the refrigerator a little longer.

TALLEST TOWER

What is claimed to be the largest man-made structure ever erected has been completed recently on a prairie a few miles north of Oklahoma City, U.S.A.

It is the 1572-foot transmitting tower of a new television station. It goes 100 feet higher than the Empire State Building's television tower in New York City and is 297 feet taller than the Eiffel Tower.

REPORT ON WILD LIFE

END-OF-THE-YEAR BIRD VISITORS

With the autumn has come news of the bird migrations it brought to our land, writes the C.N. Naturalist.

To begin with several hoopoes—those rather gaudy, crested birds notable for the bizarre striping of black and white across their wings and back—arrived in different parts of England. The first black-winged stilt came to the Northumberland coast. There was also a large autumn migration of black terns, mainly over inland waters. Dozens were seen, for instance, over the famous Cheshire Meres.

The bird observatory on Spurn Point continued to enthrall bird-watchers with its influx from across the North Sea. On one day in October 61 species were seen there including an ortolan bunting, a red-breasted flycatcher, three black redstarts, a bluetit, early bramblings with late turtle-doves and swifts, and black tern.

REDWINGS AND WILD GESE

The winter birds too have been arriving, and after the first field-fares, the redwings and wild geese appeared in September. Bramblings flew in on the east coast early in October and reached Cheshire before the end of the month. On the 17th the first purple sandpipers, which are visitors from Polar regions, appeared in the Dee Estuary at Hilbre Island.

From recent reports we find that thousands of shearwaters and the little storm-petrels still nest on Bardsey Island off North Wales and that the white-headed Continental kind of cormorant visits the Dee estuary. The wild whooper swans first appear in winter on Lakeland's Elterwater (whose name means "Swan Lake") before they visit Grasmere and Rydal Water. Peregrine falcons nest in the Aberglasslyn Pass and Montagu's harriers in Anglesey.

There have also been reports of short-eared owls and blackcock nesting on the Yorkshire border

of the Pennines, and as many as 82 geese visiting a Pennine reservoir, near Slaidburn, noted for its wildfowl.

The Cambridge Bird Club records a sooty shearwater flying over the Wash and as many as 35 garganey among the wildfowl at Peterborough. The garganey duck is declining as a nester on the Nene and Ouse Washes, but the gadwall, another rather scarce wild duck, also nests on the Ouse marshes at Manca, and on the River Delph at Mepal. The numbers of wild duck nesting here seem to be affected adversely by recent dry Springs.

HELP FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE

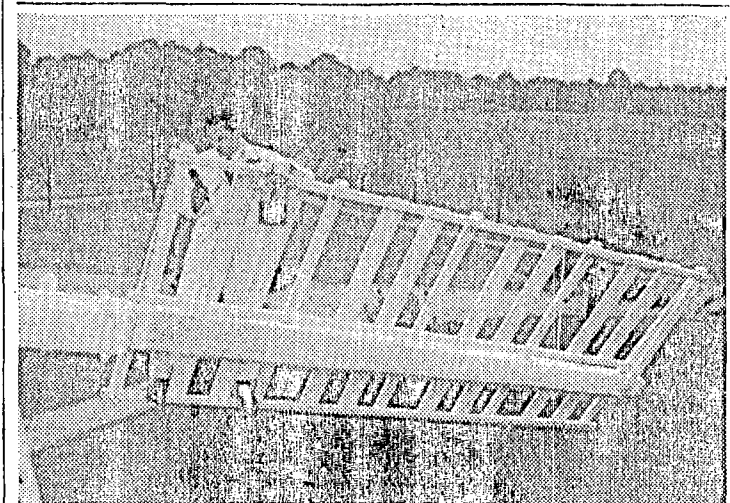
Two ladies who live at the lonely lighthouse at the south end of Walney Island near Barrow-in-Furness have recently been busy caring for some of the seabird visitors which have become fouled with waste oil on the waters. These included a red-throated diver, two fine white gannets, a kittiwake gull, and a widgeon. None of these nest on the island, but they come as October visitors.

Only the neck and head of one gannet were free from oil—even its fine blue-grey bill was covered with the tar-like stuff—and shortly after this bird had been humanely destroyed, another oiled gannet was found.

REPORT THESE BIRDS

In order to study the movements and habits of the wild pheasants which inhabit the woods of our countryside, the Game Research Station at Fordingbridge has this year "ringed" a number of birds on several estates in the Home Counties. People are asked to report any of these marked birds should they happen to find them.

Although not a native bird, the pheasant appeared on a Saxon bill of fare in this country as long ago as 1059, and is believed that the bird was first imported by Roman officers. It is actually a native of China and Japan. E. H.



Coat of paint for the windmill's sail

Standing on a sail of Wimbledon Common's windmill, near London, a painter helps to put this well-known land-mark in ship-shape order.

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THE ISLAND OF THE GODS

by Geoffrey Trease

Holly Blake and her parents, with John Stevens and his mother, an expert archaeologist, are searching for a lost shrine on a Greek island. A mysterious stranger spies on them—and Mr. Blake finds a clue to his identity.

11. The stranger with the beard

"You know who it is?" asked John.

He stood, towel in hand, his face glistening. Mr. Blake sat down on his bed.

"Your mother and I have made a few inquiries. Though nobody in the hotel speaks much English, we've found a shopkeeper who knows a bit of French. Barring ourselves, there are only two foreigners on the island."

"Two?"

"Yes, two. But nothing to do with each other. One's a Norwegian artist. The other is an American. At least, the shopkeeper says he's an American, but I have my doubts. These people often can't see any difference between Americans and Englishmen. The point is—American or English, the chap has a beard."

"A beard," echoed the boy thoughtfully. "I say!"

"Does that ring a bell?"

"Well, there's only one man with a beard I can think of, off-hand—and it's not Santa Claus!"

Mr. Blake chuckled. "No. Is it Dirk Lomas?"

John gaped. "Did you think of him, too?"

Tough customer

"I did. You see, I've been casting my mind back. Who could possibly know what we're after—who could know that if we ever find the shrine, it may contain treasure? That day we all met at the TV studios and had tea afterwards at the café round the corner—"

"Lomas was sitting quite near! He must have heard bits of what you were telling us!"

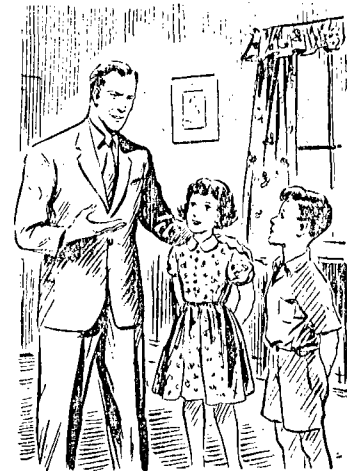
"Suppose he did? He's a tough

sort of character, not too particular about the law. Game for anything, if the money's good enough."

John nodded. "I expect he thought there was more on the sketch-map than there was. So he pinched my copy in Venice and—"

"And dashed on to Athens ahead of us! After all, we went the slowest way. He may have flown or gone by train."

It all hung together. Even those copies of Dirk Lomas's book in



"I want you to spend the morning in the fort," said Mr. Blake

the shop window in Athens! And why his book, among all the thousands of new English books published?

"Remember how your mother summed him up?" said Mr. Blake. "She said he had a gift for self-advertisement. That type never misses a trick. If he passed through Athens he couldn't resist the temptation to go into the bookshop and persuade the bookseller to stick his book bang in the middle of the window! Oh, I know it doesn't prove he was in Athens just then—but it's a mighty suspicious coincidence."

If their theory was right, it was Lomas who had made the telephone call to the police which had made the little party miss the weekly boat to Theonisos. No

wonder the police had been unable to trace the caller! He had been off to the island himself, with a clear week's start of his rivals.

"You said you thought someone else had been digging quite recently!" John recalled with a cry of triumph.

"Your mother's sure of it now. Well, Lomas—if it is Lomas—hasn't found anything yet. He hadn't even found the first of those marble lions."

"So now he's spying on us through field-glasses, hoping we'll do the work for him—and then that he can somehow nip in and collect whatever we find?"

"That's what we've got to guard against," said Holly's father gravely. He pulled a clean shirt out of his bag and prepared to wash off the traces of an energetic afternoon's digging. "I gather that our friend isn't staying here in the village itself. There's a little monastery on the north side of the island—the monks take in male guests, but not ladies—"

No evidence

"Dirk Lomas in a monastery?" John spluttered scornfully. "Of all places—for a scoundrel like that!"

"Let us hope it will improve his character," Mr. Blake mumbled through a soapy lather. "There certainly seems to be room for improvement."

The two families had their evening meal on the open terrace under the plane tree. Light came from a bare electric bulb dangling overhead. Across the village square someone was strumming a mandoline, but the noise was not loud enough to disturb their conversation. Both Dr. Stevens and Mrs. Blake said that it was no use taking any action at present.

"What can we do?" demanded John's mother. "We've no definite evidence. Even if it is Dirk Lomas, he's a perfect right to look at us through field-glasses if he wants to."

"He shut me up in that tower," the boy protested.

"True. I'd have had something to say to him if he'd done you any harm. But he didn't. He simply discovered that you were stalking him—and turned the tables on you."

Quiet common sense

"Anyhow," broke in Mrs. Blake, "we haven't found anything yet—not so much as another bit of the ruins, let alone any of those golden statues you're all dreaming of! Time to worry about Mr. Lomas when there's some treasure for him to steal."

Her quiet common sense made even Holly and John see things in a calmer light.

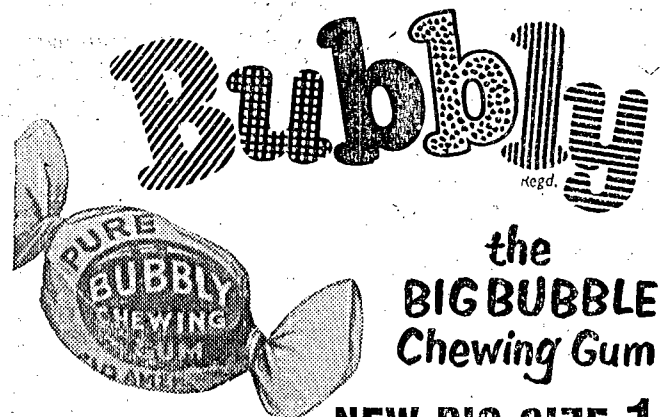
They must find the shrine first—something more than a single lion which had once adorned the entrance gates. Then they could report their discovery to the authorities, the Greek Government would take over, and the police would see that no one stole anything.

In the morning they set off early, so that they could put in several hours' work before the heat of the day. John and Holly, however, were given other duties.

Continued on page 14

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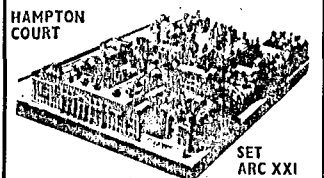
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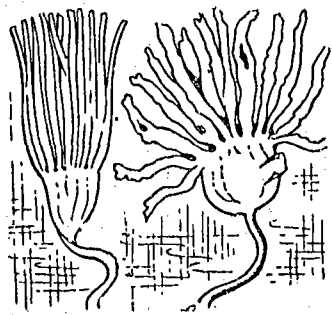


SET
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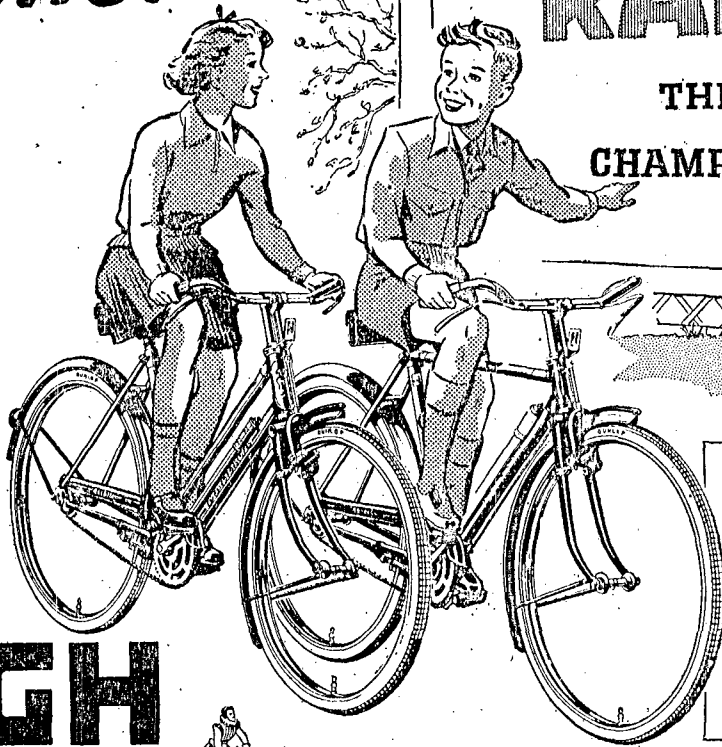
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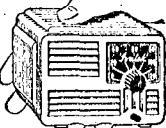
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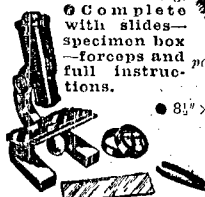
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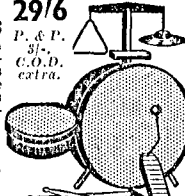
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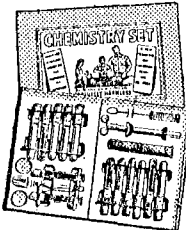
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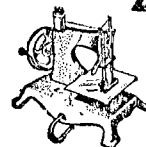


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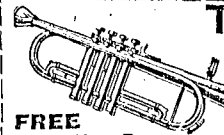
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SPORTS SHORTS

THE first match of the 1954-55 Test series in Australia begins on Friday at Brisbane. It was not until 1928 that Brisbane became a Test ground, and the M.C.C. tourists won that match by 675 runs. Since then England and Australia have each won twice there. Len Hutton, Reg Simpson, Godfrey Evans, Denis Compton, Trevor Bailey, and Alec Bedser are presents tourists who played in the last Test at Brisbane.

THE National Cycling Hill Climb Championship is one of the most eagerly sought after of all the annual amateur titles. The 1954 championship, at Holme Moss, near Huddersfield, was won—recently by Leslie Ingman, a South London plumber. Only five feet tall, he is one of the smallest of our leading cyclists. He covered the 1 mile 500 yards course with its 1 in 7 gradient in 6 minutes 46.2 seconds.

LEN HUTTON has become the third English cricketer to score 7000 runs in first-class cricket overseas. Only Walter Hammond and Sir Jack Hobbs had previously reached this milestone. Denis Compton may soon join this distinguished company, for he has now scored over 6600 runs in cricket beyond the shores of Britain.

LAST month Angela Mortimer, the Torquay tennis player, won the National Covered Courts Championship for the third successive year. This month, in the Torquay Covered Courts tournament, she won the women's singles event for the third successive time to win the trophy outright.

LEARIE CONSTANTINE, the well-known West Indian Test cricketer, will shortly return to Trinidad, where he will specialise in criminal law, having just qualified as a barrister. Now aged 50, he has lived in Britain for 30 years.

THE newly instituted L.C.C. cross-country race, which is to be known as the London County Championship, will be held next Saturday. The six-mile course starts and finishes at Parliament Hill Fields. The winning team will receive a special challenge trophy, to be held for one year.

TWO young players of Newcastle United F.C. who are showing great promise both have the name of John Thompson. One is a goal-keeper and the other an inside forward.

THE Swansea Schools team has always been noted for its first-class footballers, and this season's team is no exception. Among the Swansea stars are the twin brothers John and Frank Thomas, of the Dilwyn Llewellyn School, who in one match recently scored ten goals between them.

THE torch for the 1956 Olympic Games (a German miner's lamp) will be lit on Mount Olympus in Greece and flown to Cairns in Queensland, Australia. From Cairns 2750 runners, who may include some Aborigines, will carry the torch the 2750 miles to Melbourne in 14 days—the longest torch relay in Olympic history.

HAND trolleys have almost replaced the caddie on our golf courses. Now comes news of an electric trolley. The first of these new mechanical caddies will be seen on British golf courses in the Spring.

SOUTH AFRICA will be England's cricket Test opposition next summer, and Ken Viljoen has been selected to manage the tourists. A brilliant all-rounder, he played in 27 Test matches and made two visits to England (1935 and 1947). He also managed the South African team that toured Australia and New Zealand two years ago.

TWO cases of twin brothers playing in the same first-class football team occurred on the same day recently. Keith and John Platt, 20-year-old twins of Bramley, Leeds, turned out with the United Services Rugby Union XV at Aldershot. Both Old Boys of West Leeds High School, they are now in the Parachute Regiment, and each stands six feet three inches and weighs 14½ stones. At the same time, Jim and Bill Drake, another pair of twin forwards, were in the Hull Rugby League club's pack against Hunslet.



George Duckworth, former England wicket-keeper is now baggage man and scorer for the M.C.C. touring team in Australia. Here he is seen arriving by air for one of the matches.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE, Oxford, now has the world's first racing eight made from laminated glass. At its launching the crew was made up from rowing Blues between 1920 and 1954.

NEXT Wednesday, December 1, Wembley Stadium will house a capacity crowd when England meet Germany at Soccer. The two countries met five times between 1901 and 1938, and England were unbeaten. But last summer Germany became World Soccer Champions and the match against England has attracted enormous interest. Negotiations are now taking place for an amateur international between the two countries early next year.

MR. BERT WHALLEY, Manchester United trainer, is not only a favourite with the local footballers, he is a popular preacher and is in constant demand to take services in the Manchester area.

KEN WILMSHURST, the A.A.A. and Empire Games long jumper and hop-step-and-jump champion, who also plays Rugby at centre three-quarter for Esher, is so keen on keeping fit that he never walks up the stairs to his London insurance office—he hops!

THE Rowe Twins, Rosalind and Diane, have won the Austrian women's doubles table tennis championship for the third successive year. Rosalind also gained the women's singles title. They followed these successes by winning the Yugoslavia doubles title.



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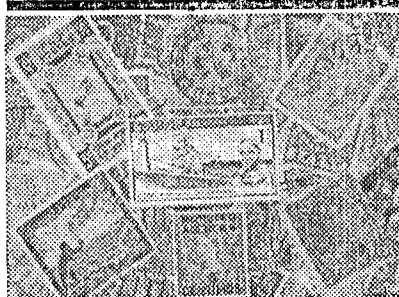


Boys at the Coppermill Lane Secondary School, Walthamstow, are learning baseball. Their American teacher, Mr. Merritt Kimball of San Francisco, is here for a year, under the Burnham Exchange Scheme, as a maths and science master. But out of school he is also teaching them baseball and American football.

Wright's Q.E. Zoological Pkt. FREE



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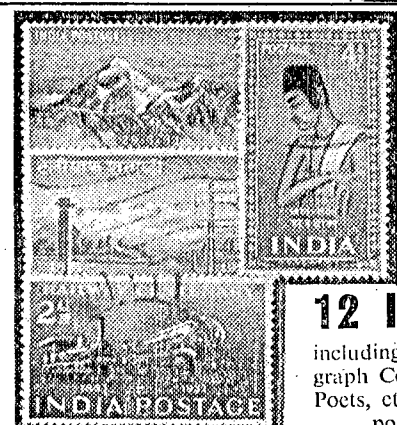
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CHANCE FOR SCHOOL ARTISTS

The work of the top artists in many schools will be seen at the Schoolboys' Own Exhibition, which opens on December 31 at the Horticultural Halls in Westminster. For the first time an art competition for schools is to be held in connection with this popular show, and its patron will be Sir Gerald Kelly, President of the Royal Academy who retires at the end of this year.

The competition is open to boys and girls up to 18, but only one entry may be sent in from each school. This should be selected by the Art Master and certified as the pupil's unaided work. A team of eminent artists will judge the entries.

There will be an inscribed cup for the winning school, to be held for 12 months, and prizes for the individual winners.

Ask your Art Master if he is interested. More information can be obtained from The Secretary, Schoolboys' Own Exhibition, 52 Grafton Way, London, W.1.

FISH-SPOTTING

The research yacht of the Marconi radio company, Electra II, has paid a week's visit to Hull to show trawler owners the latest aid to locating fish.

Shortly to come into production, this is an echo-recording meter claimed to show fish clearly on the sea-bed at depths as great as 300 fathoms. The instrument is stated to show clearly the type of fish, and also to enable fishermen to see whether the fish are going into the trawl or not.

THE ISLAND OF THE GODS

Continued from page 11

"I want you to spend the morning in the fort," said Mr. Blake.

"In the fort?" echoed his daughter.

"If you won't be scared, that is."

"We shan't be scared if there are two of us."

"Good. Take your books or write postcards to your school-friends or do whatever you like—so long as you keep quiet and watch out for our mystery man. I just want to know if he comes spying on us again. Probably won't, after the narrow squeak he had yesterday." The schoolmaster produced a whistle from his pocket. "Better take this. Then, if you want to signal in an emergency, I can be with you in a few minutes."

Rather thrilled with this new responsibility, the children took up their posts in the old Turkish fort and settled down for a lazy morning while their elders toiled on the beach below. They chose a different tower, at the north-western corner. It commanded just as good a view of the ramparts—and there was no door which could be wedged to shut them inside.

But the hours passed, and no stranger appeared. Now and again the children crept down and patrolled the cool galleries below. They were empty. No watcher was crouched at any of the loopholes.

On the tick of twelve o'clock

HOME FROM TRISTAN

After living with her parents for more than two years in an island which is often called the loneliest place in the world, three-year-old Jane Scott has arrived back in Britain with them and enjoyed her first train ride—from Southampton to Cambridge, where the family are now living.

Mr. J. P. L. Scott has just retired from the post of ad-



Jane Scott

ministrator of the bleak, windswept island of Tristan da Cunha in the wastes of the South Atlantic where, before the war, only one ship a year was sent with supplies.

Fewer than 300 people live in Tristan da Cunha which has been a British possession since 1816. Although Tristan has an important radio and meteorological station, fishing is the islanders' main source of livelihood. They are a loyal people and proud to belong to the British Commonwealth.

they hurried down to the picnic lunch their mothers were spreading out under the cypresses.

"We've had a blank morning, too," said Dr. Stevens. "It's most queer. That marble lion guarded the outer approaches to the shrine. Working inland from there, we ought to find ruins wherever we take off the top soil. But we haven't found a thing."

After lunch they rested and then had a swim in the sea. Then, with the children taking a hand now, they put in another hour or two's digging, before finishing for the day. They were rewarded by the discovery of the second lion, which had also been broken from its pedestal, and lay covered with sand about five yards from the first.

"We'd better get hold of some spades tomorrow," said Dr. Stevens. "We'll have to widen our digging area and work faster. We must get something more definite before we can prove we're on the track of the shrine."

It had been rather a dull day, the children thought. But it was not quite over. As they were finishing their dinner that evening, the café-owner came up to the table and said something to Dr. Stevens.

"Good heavens!" she cried. "He says there's a man who wants to see us—a foreigner with a beard!"

To be continued

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DETECTIVE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

There are still puzzles in the animal world that keen young naturalists could help to solve. Mr. Fred J. Speakman points this out in his new book, *Tracks, Trails, and Signs* (Bell, 10s. 6d.).

For example, why do badgers often leave cartloads of thin bedding (bracken) outside their homes, or earths? Mr. Speakman does not believe that this is bedding brought out to air, for he has seen piles of fresh bedding that were never taken into Brock's earth. But he has his own theory.

Solving such problems means being expert in the craft of watching shy creatures. "You must stand so that no breath of you can reach the warning nose," he writes. "You must be still; without a scrape of sleeve on bark, without the shifting of a foot; and then you will hear the walkers of the night moving quietly all around."

He himself is a master detective of the countryside; this is clearly shown in the photographs in his book. He has a sharp eye for details—such things as tiny adders drinking the dew on the grass, because it is often the only water they can find.

He has watched the small beasts and birds come to the lakeside to drink—where the heron awaits the unwary—and he tells us that squirrels cannot eat if they are thirsty, and always seek the purest water. He has seen the skins of mice neatly turned inside out by the jays that ate them.

Mr. Speakman has written this delightful book to enable boys and girls to learn for themselves about the hundreds of thousands of wild creatures leading their own independent busy lives in our countryside. He wants them all to become young detectives of the countryside—"to feel the joy of following the trail; the entertainment and understanding that are to be yours if you take up the art of tracking."

It is a pursuit that all who are within reach of the fields, woods, and streams can enjoy without harm to any wild creature.

Mr. Speakman himself lives just outside London and has carried out many of his observations in Epping Forest. His book certainly reflects all the joy he himself has had in following this most fascinating of all hobbies of the countryside.

STAMP NEWS

To show her thanks to the United Nations for technical assistance, Liberia has issued four special airmail stamps.

Two new Italian stamps will pay tribute to Amerigo Vespucci (1451-1512), navigator and explorer of the coasts of the New World. Early in the sixteenth century unfounded claims were made that he was the discoverer of the American mainland, and it is from his Christian name that we get the word America.

STAMPS bearing the portrait of Florence Nightingale are being issued by Turkey.

ONE of the highest waterfalls in the world, Maletsunyane in Basutoland, appears on the Protectorate's new definitive issue.

VIKING rock carvings are depicted on five new Swedish stamps.

CATS ON THE STAFF

Probably the only Government department in the world which officially has cats on its payroll is the General Post Office in Cape Town.

There are three of them, described by postal officials as "very fierce," and they were taken on the staff to rid the post office of rats. Today there is not a rat or a mouse in the entire ten-storey building.

In the official pay book of the post office the cats are allowed £1 a month for milk and fish.

"Since the cats have been 'put on our staff,'" an official said, "we have saved hundreds of pounds which were previously spent on the repair of mailbags damaged by rats."

BELL-RINGING MARATHON

Eight bell-ringers are to embark on a feat of endurance. They will try to set up a world record peal of no fewer than 40,320 changes of Plain Bob Major, in the tower of John Taylor's famous bell foundry at Loughborough, Leicestershire.

To accomplish this they will have to peal continuously for about 20 hours. Moreover, in accordance with the rules, they will be allowed no refreshment.

MORE LIGHT ON BEAVERS

At Geraldton, Ontario, engineers of the Canadian National Railways had to destroy a beaver dam which had caused flooding of the railway track. The men left lighted paraffin lamps on logs to discourage further mischief.

But they reckoned without the beavers. During the night the animals quietly removed the lamps and used them, still lighted, to plug the holes in a new dam, over the same waterway, a little farther on.

PORTABLE RADIO WON

Congratulations to Stuart Brewer, of Mellows Road, Ilford, who wins the Regatta Portable Radio Set offered as first prize in C.N. Competition No. 14.

Consolation prizes go to: Susan Burns, Northwood; Margaret Davis, Colchester; G. S. Hudson, Leeds; Roland Littlewood, Leicester; Peter Mayston, Wolverhampton; Anne Munro, London, N.22; Mary Ody, Basingstoke; Margaret Scott, Wilmslow; Maureen Wain, Congleton; and David Wilkinson, Amble.

Solution: 1 Swan; 2 Peacock; 3 Pheasant; 4 Kestrel; 5 Magpie; 6 Kingfisher; 7 Crane; 8 Emu.



A book on how motor cars grew up

THE MOVING SPIRIT

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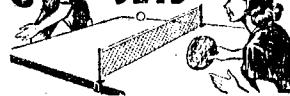


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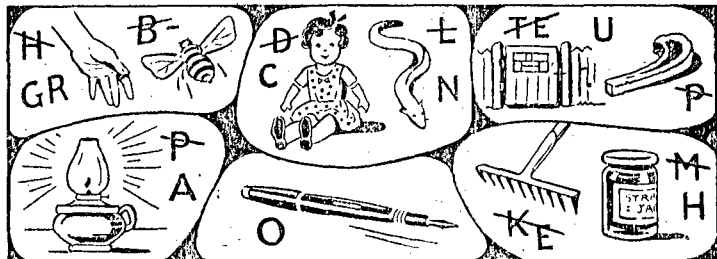
THE BRAN TUB

AND THE ANSWER IS NO!

If you stick a stick across a stick
Or stick a cross across a stick
Or cross a stick across a stick
Or cross a cross across a stick
Or cross a cross across a cross
Or stick a crossed stick across a
crossed stick
Or cross a crossed stick across a
cross
Or cross a crossed stick across a
stick
Or cross a crossed stick across a
crossed stick,
Would that be an acoustic?

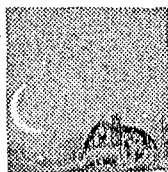
WHAT PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTED BY THESE PICTURE PUZZLES ...
... and in which countries would you expect to find them?

Answer in column 5



OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Jupiter is in the east and Mars is low in the south-west. No planets are visible in the morning. Our picture shows the Moon as it will appear at 7.30 on Wednesday morning, November 24.



BIRDS ON WIRES

HAVE you ever wondered why it is that birds are not electrocuted while sitting on high tension and other electric wires? They are not insulated, yet few get killed. The reason is that they are not earthed. If any bird, while sitting on a wire, were to touch anything that conducts electricity to earth, it would mean instant death.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW LANDS JACKO IN THE ZOO



WHAT ...

... trees sound the same before and after being burned?



ALPHABET PUZZLE

The answers to the following questions all begin with the letter G.

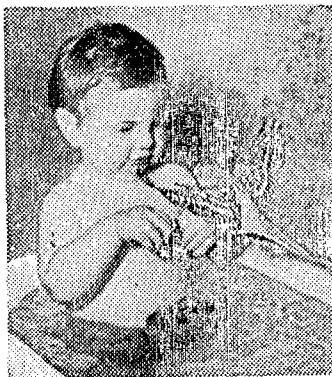
A GOOD motorist changes it silently
First book of the Old Testament
Place in Switzerland where the International Red Cross has its headquarters
Province of Italy—and a jolly good cake
The Patron Saint of England
What do we call Deutschland?

Answer in column 5

WORKING AGREEMENT

A TRAMP asked a farmer for something to eat
One day as he chanced there to stop;
The kind-hearted farmer then gave him an axe:
"Now, just help yourself to a chop."

THIS ISN'T A BIRD BATH!



Barry Thomson of Balham is not sure that he wants his friend Billy the Budgie to share his evening splashabout.

PLAYGROUNDS

WHAT games do you associate with the following names?

HURLINGHAM, BRAEMAR, ST. ANDREWS, OVAL, WEMBLEY.

Answer in column 5

SPOT THE ...

SNAILS as they gather in large numbers, often beneath the soil at the foot of a wall.

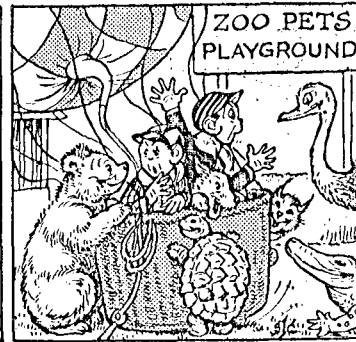
Snails are sensitive to cold, and they go into hibernation during the winter. They burrow beneath the earth and seal the mouths of their shells with a thin membrane, which is known as the epiphragm. Even so, a spell of extra severe weather may take a heavy toll.

WHAT ...

... is full of holes yet holds water?

Answers in column 5

ZOO PETS PLAYGROUND



WHY ...

... is a good architect like a good actor?

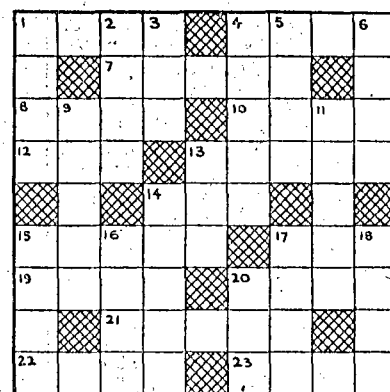
Because they both draw good houses

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS: 1 Post. 4 Fête. 7 Approaches. 8 Surfeit. 10 Ajar. 12 A couple. 13 Possession. 14 Appropriate. 15 Flat fish. 17 Twenty-four blackbirds were in one. 19 Relate. 20 Vista. 21 Claw. 22 Signs of disapproval. 23 Dampens.

READING DOWN: 1 A flag often flies from it. 2 In. 3 Shelter. 4 Severe cold. 5 Snakes. 6 Tear. 9 You do this every morning. 11 Weird. 13 Monkey. 14 Book of maps. 15 Pierce with knife. 16 Highest male voice. 17 Languish. 18 Female sheep. 20 Solemn promise.

Answer next week



CLASSROOM TALE

"SPELL mouse," said teacher, to little Anne.
"M-O-U-S-E."
"And what's on the end?"
"A tail."

STILL A TOUGH JOB

IN spite of such modern conveniences as aircraft, jeeps, and two-way radio, the ranches of America's West still call for tough men and hardy horses.

During the winter especially, when howling winds pile snow on the prairies and envelop roads, aircraft and jeeps are useless. The cowboys and their horses must force their way through chest-high drifts to feed herds of cattle, a task which might keep them out in the cold for three days.

Also they must still know how to handle a six-shooter, for when their work takes them to outlying districts they must be armed against such menaces as coyotes, mountain lions, and rattlesnakes.

BRAN TUB ANSWERS

Picture-puzzle: Grandee (Spain), Colleen (Ireland), Gaucho (Argentina), Lama (Tibet), Peon (Spanish America), Rajah (India).
Alphabet Quiz: Gear, Genesis, Geneva, Genoa, George, Germany.
Playgrounds: Polo, Highland Games, golf, cricket, football.

BEDTIME TALE

HOW HENRY CHANGED HIS NAME

HENRY wanted to call himself Henry Hare, but the other wild folk in the meadows around insisted on calling him Henry Leveret. They said he was not old enough and clever enough yet to be given his grown-up family name.

"Well, even if I was only born in April," Henry said, "I have looked after myself since I was only a month old."

But this, they said, was not enough. Though they agreed he had chosen a fine home for himself when he made his form in the coarse grass in the corner of a meadow. For there he got the early sun, and was sheltered from the noon-day heat or any cold wind.

Then, one early morning, when he returned from a night's feeding, Henry found a large red cow lying right on top of his form. There were more cows, too, in the centre of the field.

"But I am not going to give up my home," he said to himself. "There is room for all of us here."

So, going up to the cow, he said politely: "Excuse me, that's my place."

But the cow pretended not to hear. So Henry tried again. This time the cow turned her head and said haughtily: "Don't bother me, you silly Leveret."

Henry was so angry that he stood on his hind legs and boxed her nose hard with his forepaws.

In a second the astonished cow was up and trundling across to the others.

"Keep out of that corner," she moaned. "A big brown Hare has just boxed my nose."

At once the other cows began mooing, too. "Beware of the Hare! Beware of the Hare!" they cried. And Henry, safely back in his form again, panted with joy.

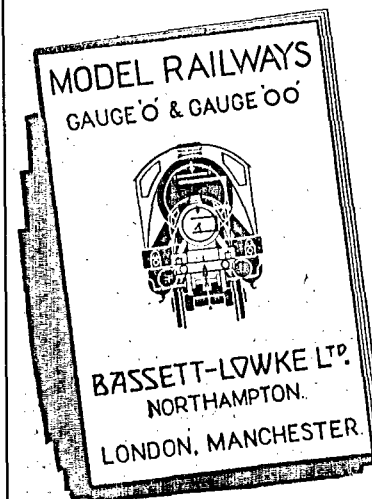
"Everyone must have heard that," he said to himself. "And no one will ever dare to call me Henry Leveret again."

And, sure enough, nobody ever did.

JANE THORNICROFT



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